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Publication

digit

YOUR TECHNOLOGY NAVIGATOR | WWW.THINKDIGIT.COM | VOL. 11 ISSUE 01

TECHNOLOGIES THAT
WOMEN SHOULD BE
BANNED FROM USING



THE WEB AWARDS
OUR VERDICT ON THE
VERY BEST OF WEB
SITES AND SERVICES

WHO WANTS TO BE A BILLIONAIRE?

BIG TECH BUSINESS IDEAS THAT
COULD MAKE YOU FILTHY RICH

PLAY
FABLE III
ASSASSIN'S
CREED:
BROTHERHOOD

LEARN
HOW SICK IS
THE WWW?
TECH FOR THE
NEXT DECADE

COMPARE
THE LATEST
TABLET
PCS GPS
DEVICES

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all-time favourite apps or games
across multiple platforms:
Windows, Mac, Linux,
Mobiles, Games,
Developers



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WORLD VIEW

THE BEST TECH ARTICLES
FROM AROUND THE GLOBE



NATURAL LANGUAGE TECHNOLOGY NOW A REALITY... BUSINESS INFO JUST AN SMS AWAY



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You got it

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Ghosts of decades past

First up, a very happy and prosperous new year! A lot of you have been reading Digit for most of the last decade. It was an exciting 10 years, to say the least, and we've been humbled by the extent of your support. Digit looks forward to keeping you at the forefront of IT, and helping you navigate the often overwhelming world of technology for this new decade as well.

Last year, our publishing director encouraged you to "build something", and we've been trying our best to help you with articles that showed you how to build various things – mobile apps, little electronic gadgets, robots, super computers, and more...

We're obviously going to continue to do that, based on your positive feedback, but we're also going to raise the bar a little. Our goal at Digit has always been to leave lasting impressions by helping our readers do more with technology, and part of this, I think is to push you to think bigger.

Our billionaire story in this issue is along those lines... which brings a quote to mind: A friend once told me, "You have a 50 per cent chance of becoming a billionaire!" "How so?" I asked. "Either you will, or you won't. 50:50." he replied. Sounds like childish banter, I know, but I think it's all about self belief at times.

We Indians have got all the ingredients needed to achieve this, and although most of us Digit readers will never be filthy rich, I certainly believe that *some* of us will. What's important, in my humble opinion, is innovative thinking, the willingness to take risks and following our instincts.

What we need to stop doing, however, is being me-toos. Take this month's Tablet PC test for instance. Although we had a lot of brands participate, it became very obvious, very quickly, that there were really only a handful of unique devices out there. Most people seem to be heading off to the east, finding mass produced tablets and just re-branding and selling them here in India. I expect to see even more brands pop-up in 2011, and considering that we already have more brands than distinct tablet configurations, it's going to be a nightmare to sort through.

The tablets that stand out from the crowd are those from the bigger brands. An expected


outcome, we all assume. Sure, the easy way out is to re-brand existing hardware and not spend any money on development, but just because it's easier doesn't make it right.

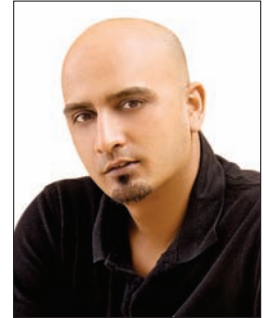
It's also easy to give up because you don't have the budgets that giants like Apple and Samsung have at their disposal, but then that's exactly what it's all about, isn't it?

Facebook came about at a time when the giants – Google, Microsoft and Yahoo! – were going hammer and tongs at each other in the quest for web dominance. If a certain college coder had thought, "What's the point? I can't compete with guys who have billion dollar budgets", we'd have no Facebook today. Not that it would matter, because someone else would make something else that would capture our attention and our clicks, and become a billionaire in the process...

In school, I remember a teacher once telling my class, "Aim for the the stars, and you'll reach the sky... aim for the sky, and you'll reach the treetops... aim for the treetops, and you'll never get your f%*\$ing a%\$e of the ground!"

It's actually a pretty common saying, but I remember this version, expletives and all, because the teacher in question was one of those colourful characters that you will remember for life. The message was simple though, think big, and don't be afraid to dream.

Think about it. We tend to remember the colourful characters from our past, and forget the ones who were stereotypical. Similarly, we need to think that way about our careers, and use our skills to be colourful, and stand out from the crowds. India needs to forget the ghosts of decades past, throw accepted logic out the window and start on the journey we're all destined for. Lets build products, services and software that we'll be remembered for, and in the process build an IT empire the world will truly respect, instead of chasing the quick bucks like we tend to. 



Robert Sovereign-Smith
Executive Editor
editor@thinkdigit.com

"Aim for the the stars, and you'll reach the sky... aim for the sky, and you'll reach the treetops... aim for the treetops, and you'll never get your f%*\$ing a%\$e of the ground!"

Liked or hated the views in this column? Write in to express your own opinions and ideas.

JANUARY 2011

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The glam weapon



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Lenovo IdeaPad G565
LightWave LW-W12
Lightwave LW-500U
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Microsoft HD 6000
MSI 880GMA-E45
Philips 46PFL8605
Philips SHH 7810
Razer Lachesis
Samsung PX2370
Sparkle GTX 580
Tech-Com 36-in1 card reader
Unitech HT680
WD TV Live Hub
Zebronics Zebmate 75

GPS comparison test
Blaupunkt TMC Travel Pilot
Garmin Nuvi 1460
Garmin Nuvi 215
Garmin Nuvi 715
MapmyIndia Lx130
MapmyIndia Vx140
MapmyIndia Zx150 Deluxe
SatGuide Mio C230
SatGuide Mio Moov 200
SatGuide Mio Moov 560

Tablet comparison test
Apple iPad
Dell Streak
Infibeam Android Phi
Infibeam Windows Phi
LeAF LeAF 10 inch Tabloid
Samsung Galaxy Tab
SMC EZ StylePad
ViewSonic Viewpad

Disclaimer

For every Digit contest, there will be only one winner, unless specified otherwise.
In the event of a dispute, the Editor's decision shall be final.

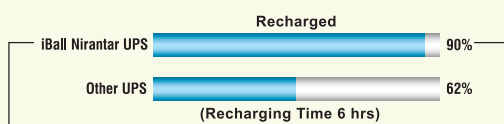
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Software on the DVDs

To submit and suggest software or any other type of content, to be included in the Digit DVDs, write to dvd@thinkdigit.com or call at +91-22-678 99 707



Q&A

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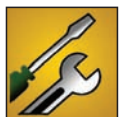
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Community of People who love mobiles, laptops, cameras & other gadgets

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Each one of us can make a difference to the environment around us and benefit ourselves by adopting green tools, technology & practices.

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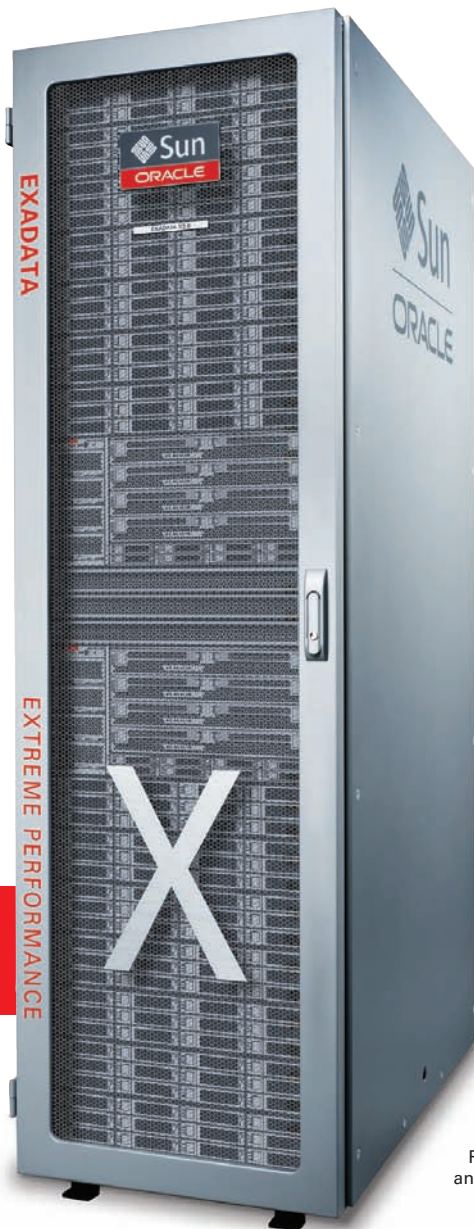
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Buzz

News and happenings from around the web

Predicting your fashion tastes

Boutiques.com along with Google will make use of visual search to make online shopping an intuitive experience

✉ Last month's issue didn't turn up in my college's book stall, and due to exams, I couldn't go out to get it. As a result, I got to lay my hands on it very late. Things happened differently this month. I was at Jaipur bus stop waiting for my bus destined to Delhi when I saw the December's Digit issue in a book stall. I couldn't believe my eyes because it was the first day of the month (too early for the magazine to reach the stands).

Your stunt did get me thinking about Bhopal's tragedy in the right manner. Being a student I can't think of donating now but will surely watch the movie. I liked that you accepted my request for a guide to compiling Linux kernel. I did get to learn a few things but what I wanted was explanation of the innumerable options it presents. Hope I will find it in a future issue.

Thanks to all the wonderful tech *gyaan* and your persistent movement to create awareness I am sending this mail to you from somewhere on the way from Jaipur to Delhi. Its needless to say, still keep the good work going.

Anuvrat Parashar

✉ Glad we impressed you with the Yes Men. We just want you to be aware of such social movements and propagate the message. We will surely try to address your Linux kernel doubts in future issues. Keep reading and improving your tech knowledge.

Sambhav

✉ I just received your December special issue bundle and I am really excited to see the content. This issue is certainly the best. The Fast Track is also very good. Wish you had released it earlier because my school's annual exhibition has just got over and we had designed a robot there. Fast Track could have been of great help at that time. I am the IT Captain of our school and I get all the knowledge that I need from your magazine. You guys really do a great job. Digit is worth spending money on.

Archit

✉ Don't worry Archit, with the Fast Track to building your Robot you can design a much better robot in the future. If not then maybe you can pass on the step-by-step



video in the accompanying DVD to your juniors. It feels good to know that young students like you read Digit religiously and like the content we come out with. You can always rely on us for fuelling your tech hunger.

Siddharth

✉ First of all, I would like to congratulate Team Digit for the wonderful special issue in December. I am a regular subscriber of Digit and this is my first letter to you. Electronics is my hobby so the December issue covered most of my areas of interest. I really loved your idea of having a Fast Track to building a robot and then backing it up with a video in the DVD.

One thing which I think suppose to be there is PIC Programmer Circuit. There are lots of open source circuit for PIC Programmer Circuit. Most of the people interested in Hobby Electronics and do not want to spend a bomb on expensive components can go for open source circuit which will cut down the cost drastically. Once again, keep up the good work.

Harsh Gupta

✉ Working on the December issue was quite challenging, and it feels good to know that our work was appreciated. We try to use all our media be it the magazine, the web site or DVD to provide the very best of tech content to our

readers. As we were doing a Fast Track on robotics, it made sense to include a practical DIY video in our DVD. This way you actually see something being built in front of you, rather than just reading about it. Thanks for sharing the tip about the open source PIC Programmer Circuit with our readers here.

Nimish

✉ My first encounter with the magazine happened around seven years back. Back then Agent 001 was skinny and you had models on the front cover. I was only a kid then, with a healthy curiosity for computers. Digit whet my tech appetite. It got me up and running and kept me informed about the latest technology. As was destined, it made me the tech-guru among my friends and relatives. But the exact impetus you provided, began to wean me away from you, because by then the internet had started getting populated with news and how-to's which I could instantly access. But I feel differently now and I must praise the commendable job you are doing. Recently with the improvised content and social initiatives like Tech Kranti and I Think Green. But the cherry on top is the December issue. All the previous issues, I felt had too many fillers and ads, but this one had content, and lots of it, which I loved. I had



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Notion Ink Adam sold out

Adam, the Android based tablet from Notion Ink which was opened for pre-orders in early December has been sold out announced its website

iOS device as a remote

UK-based company Gear4 has announced Unity Remote, a device that turns any iOS device into a universal remote controller

reached a stage where I was comfortable with Linux but hadn't dabbled with the kernel, but the kernel compilation article was like a worm-hole which ports the tech middle class to the higher echelons. You still make me wait eagerly for the Digit issue with the same enthusiasm that I had when I started this journey.

Sagar Raut

d It is readers like you, Sagar, who have made Digit what it is. Digit has grown with you and the only way we can payback such loyalty is by always giving you content that will help you grow in the technology sector. We feel great pride, when readers write in applauding our social initiatives. As India's top technology magazine with such a large readership, we feel we all can make some difference to our society. That is what prompted Tech Kranti and I Think Green. We are glad that you liked the December issue. Rest assured about cutting edge content from our side.

Nash

✉ I have been reading Digit for the past many years and I had subscribed to it for a year as well. The cover of 2010 Collector's Edition was the best from among all the covers I have seen on Digit. It was simple, elegant and eye catching and conveyed the message with just a glance. The content inside was quite brilliant as well. I want to subscribe to Digit, but I am afraid that I will have to wait long for my issue to be delivered. It is frustrating to see Digit on the newstand before it reaches me. If you assure me regarding this aspect I will subscribe to it again and kindly inform me about some attractive offers also. Regarding the DVD contents, if I like a particular software from the interface, I can only install it from there. There is no way that I can save that particular software from the interface to my hard disk. For this I have to browse the DVD and then search for it and most of the times the names of the softwares are shortened and it is difficult to find that by browsing the disk. Kindly advise on this issue. I have sent in a tech query as well. Last

LETTER OF THE MONTH

✉ I have been a Digit subscriber since August 2010 and wait eagerly for the magazine every month. The DVDs are awesome and contain all the software that I need. Spend Smart and Killer Rigs gives me all the information on prices. The magazine is very useful to my elder brother as he is pursuing Computer Engineering. According to me, World View is the most interesting section in the magazine. There should be a section having quizzes and puzzles related to computer and technology. In my class I have made my classmates subscribe with Digit. Till now I have added more than ten Digit subscriptions including my own. The Toolbox section

helps me in troubleshooting all my computer issues. I wish the No.1 technology magazine remain No.1 forever. I am eagerly waiting for your January issue.

Bharat Rajvanshi

d Bharat, it is really wonderful of you to propagate the significance of Digit among your friends, and add an impressive ten subscribers. World View section was started as an experiment to expose our readers to news from around the world on current relevant topics. Your support for the section is appreciated. All the best to your brother and you as well.

Robert

time your reply was very disappointing and I did not write to you again after that. Please do not dissappoint me this time.

Anil Khaneja

d Anil, we are sorry regarding the late delivery of issues. We try to send issues to the subscribers as soon as possible but sometimes due to some unforeseen circumstances issues get delayed, but we are working towards improving that. We assure you that you will not regret the decision to subscribe. You can get all the offer details from our online store at www.thinkdigit.com/store. We have already replied to your query regarding motherboard and gaming card .

Rossi

✉ I'm 15 and I started reading Digit a year back and I've been hooked ever since. It's the only tech magazine I read and you're doing a pretty good job writing it the way you are. There were a couple of things I wanted to write to you about. Firstly, I would like you to include - this is probably the best way that I can put it - 'happenings' and incidents from the tech world for eg. The Ron Bowes' Facebook incident that you had recently written about. You could include excerpts from speeches by tech celebs, or cover company histories, success stories etc. You get the idea, because this is the kind of stuff asked in quiz competitions. Also, I want to begin with video and

sound editing soon. Firstly, I would like you to recommend some relatively advanced full version freeware for audio and video, since I have been unable to find good ones online, and my Adobe Suite is giving me trouble. Lastly, I would request you to have a couple of FastTrack issues covering advanced Photoshop CS, and beginner Premiere, AfterEffects and Soundbooth, preferably all separate issues, because bookshops near my house don't have books for those. Once again, great job with the magazine and the site.

Ushmita Seth

d Great to know that you have been hooked on to Digit. We do cover news event in the Buzz section in the initial pages of the magazine. As something or the other keeps happening in the technology world everyday, it is not possible to include every 'happening' event as you put it. We update our website www.thinkdigit.com daily with tech news of that day, so we would advise you log on to it and get your daily fix of tech news. You can try out ArtistX which is a Linux distro dedicated to artists working on photo, video and sound editing. But it is not as advanced as the Windows based video and sound editing suites. As far as Windows is concerned you will rarely find any free advanced editing tools. We are providing Adobe CS5 trial edition this month, so do give it a shot.

Nimish

Windows®. Life without Walls™. Dell™ recommends Windows 7.



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Windows 7

Apple iPad 2 coming?

Rumours of a new iPad spread on the internet; expected to launch in Q1 2011

Ubuntu tablets

Rumoured Ubuntu powered tablets seen in China; it's said to be running on an Atom processor


Nvidia finally brings the power of Fermi to Mac

Mac users, especially Mac Pro users, would have been waiting for this – a Fermi-derived workstation GPU. They've finally got the Nvidia Quadro 4000, which will deliver all the DX11 Fermi goodness, with CUDA as the icing on the cake.

CUDA technology, while also relevant for gaming, makes its presence best felt under professional and workstation setups, where GPU-accelerated video encoding and rendering is a must, and ray tracing an often necessary evil. The Quadro 4000 for the Mac also features fast 64-bit double precision floating point capabilities to ensure accurate results in the case of mission critical applications, such as medical imaging and structural analysis. CUDA will also accelerate applications from companies such as Adobe, Autodesk, RTT, Dassault Systemes, Bunkspeed and many more.

The Quadro 4000 prom-

ises 5x faster performance with Fermi than the previous generation, and with its Scalable Geometry Engine, it can process up to 890 million triangles per second. Keeping all this in mind, Nvidia is quick to point out that the Quadro 4000 is more than just a graphics processor, but a visual supercomputing platform which can handle stereoscopic 3D, scalable visualization and 3D high-definition broadcasting.

The card is similar to the Quadro 4000 for PC, and has 256 CUDA cores, 2GB GDDR5 RAM on a 265-bit memory interface, a 475MHz core clock and a 2800 effective memory clock, with a 950MHz shader clock. It will be priced at an identical \$1,199. The biggest difference between the PC version and the Mac version is that the Mac version has 2 DisplayPort outputs, instead of 1 DisplayPort and 1 DVI like the PC version. Also ironic, is that while the Quadro 4000 supports OpenGL 4.1, though Mac OS X is still stuck at OpenGL 2.1. Then again, it would serve OpenCL quite well. 

Live WD TV by month end

Western Digital recently introduced its latest HD media player – the WD TV Live Hub Media Centre in Mumbai. The Live Hub media player will be available in the Indian market by the end of December 2010 and will be priced at ₹9,999.

The Live Hub media centre is a full-HD 1080p media player which houses a 1TB network hard drive within it. It has features like integrated media server, integrated iTunes media server, video feeds via the internet, social networking integration in the form of Facebook and Flickr apps among other features.


Live Hub TV allows you to connect devices such as DSLR, compact cameras, external drives, camcorders via the USB port. "With the WD TV Live Hub media centre, consumers can take their home entertainment experience to the next level, streaming personal content to multiple rooms at the same time," said Khwaja Saifuddin,

senior director sales (Middle East, Africa and South Asia), Western Digital.

Facebook integration was quite unique which allows users to update status, upload photos, view their wall, get the latest newsfeed, in-short do everything that you normally can on a Facebook app. You might need a wireless keyboard if you will use Facebook on the Live Hub as the remote will not do justice. You can also view photos remotely on your iPhones via a WD



Photo app – which is presently only available for the iPhone – provided the Live Hub is powered on.

Daniel Mauerhofer, senior public relations manager, WD said, "We are working on that technology, but our research showed that there wasn't a great demand for such drives. As of now it is not a volumes market." 

Scientists store 9,00,000 GB of data in E. coli bacteria

Scientists have been working on using proteins, bacteria and other organic material as storage media for a while, and if it looks like all those efforts are bearing fruit only now, it doesn't make it any more unlikely! Calling it 'bioencryption by recombination', a team of scientists from Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK) have figured out how to store and en/decrypt data onto living bacteria cells.


According to CUHK's mis-

sion statement: CUHK iGEM 2010 team is formed by a group of undergraduates and instructors from the Chinese University of Hong Kong. Our project is to create a brand new biological cryptography system. We harness the incredible adaptability of simple organisms in the tortured environment to make sure that the message stored can be left undisturbed regardless of any environmental changes.

The aim of the project is also to make it extremely resistant

to hacking and environmental damage, which most current solutions are affected by. In essence, the team sought to make bacteria data storage and encryption feasible in the real world, which previously returned very low and impractical data density figures. Now, they've squeezed more than 9,31,322GB of data onto 1 gram of E. Coli bacteria by creating a massively parallel bacterial data storage system. Compared to 1 to 4GB per gram data density of conventional media, 9,00,000GB per

gram is truly astounding.

Taking the dream one step closer to industrial reality, the team has developed data proof-read/correction and random access modules, in addition to an encryption module, all using site-specific recombination of the inversion type. In essence, the team has transferred information onto DNA, and the encoding method to do this used DNA bases, taking adenosine, thymine, cytosine, and guanine to represent numbers 0 to 3. 

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Pioneer launches BDXL drive

Pioneer launched the BDR-206MBK, a optical disc writer which can support up to 128GB optical media

TB drives by end of 2011

Better disk densities might result in 4 to 5TB 3.5-inch desktop by the end of the year

Nvidia launches GeForce GTX 570, AMD Radeon HD 6900 series

Things are very hot again in the two sided world of discrete graphics cards, with Nvidia and AMD releasing rival products in quick succession. After the GTX 580 and Radeon HD 6800 series launches recently, Nvidia followed up the festivities and accompanying price drops by releasing the GTX 570, priced at around ₹22,000. So far, the single-GPU card is pegged ahead of both the GTX

480 and HD 5870. It is based on the same GF110 architecture as the GTX 580, with a little less of everything.

As you can expect with the newer architecture, the GTX 570 offers better performance at lower heat (using the 580's vapour-cooling system) and power consumption, apart from offering more choice at the top-end of the market.

The card also apparently offers great overclocking headroom, and some factory overclocked versions offer 810MHz core clock and 1620MHz shader clock and 3960MHz memory clock speeds out of the box.

The DX11 GeForce GTX 570 is interestingly positioned in terms of hardware, falling in between the GTX 480 and GTX 480, though it has the GF110's more efficient design.

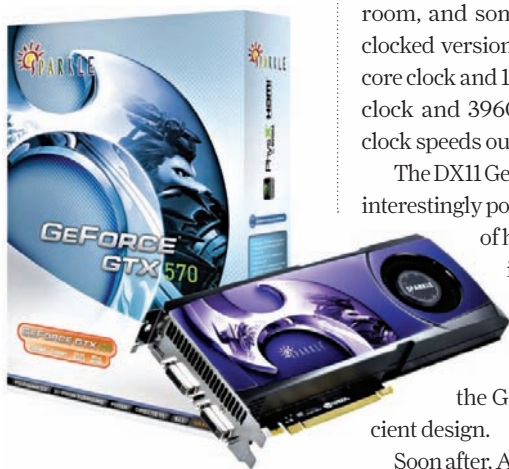
Soon after, AMD brought out

the much awaited Radeon HD 6900 enthusiast series, which incorporates many new architectural and feature changes. For now, the AMD's top offering remains the HD 5970, with the HD 6970 next in the list, officially followed by the HD 6950, the HD 6800 series, and the HD 5700 series. However, the HD 5870 still remains in stock for a while, so if you want one, go get it before they fly off the shelves. The new flagship, HD 6990 – the dual Cayman GPU, was due by the end of December, but now looks like it will launch only in January to replace its fellow dual-GPU AMD flagship - HD 5970 - at the top.

Built on the Southern Islands 40nm Cayman GPU, the HD 6970 (\$369) and HD 6950 (\$299) are built on the 40nm process, after AMD had to abandon the 32nm TSMC node. Until the Northern Islands and the 28nm GPUs come out (and Nvidia with its own 28nm GPUs – including

the GTX 680), it looks like AMD will have to bow to the GTX 580 in single-GPU performance for a while.

So far, the consensus is that the HD 6900 series a serious refresh over the previous generation, with some going so far as to say it has the most architectural and feature improvements in one generation since AMD ATI introduced its first DX10 GPU, the HD 2900. Changes include an integration (finally!) of something akin to Nvidia's multi-sample anti-aliasing, called enhanced quality anti-aliasing; dual graphics engines; 8th generation tessellator; VLIW4 architecture; PowerTune; asynchronous dispatch; better OpenGL and OpenCL support; HDMI 1.4a and DisplayPort 1.2 support; 2GB GDDR5 RAM; improved Local Data Store fetching and new dual bidirectional DMA engine; new improved render back-ends; BIOS toggle switch; and a Unified Video Decoder 3 (UVD3). **d**



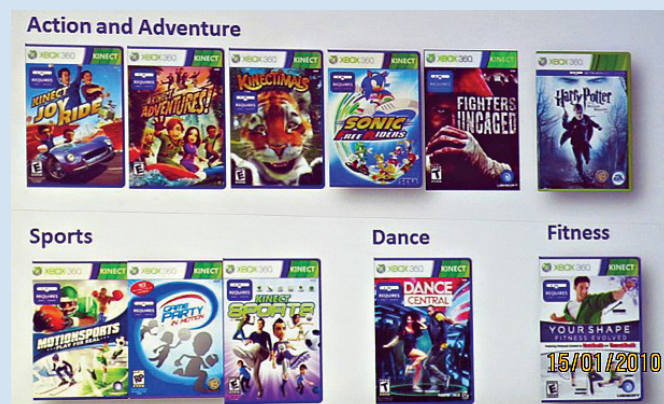
Microsoft brings controller-free Kinect for Xbox 360

Microsoft has launched the Kinect for Xbox 360 in India, priced at ₹9,990 for the stand-alone Kinect sensor, bundled with the Kinect Adventures game suite. For those who don't own an Xbox 360 console already, Microsoft has also released a console bundle for an MSRP of ₹22,990 (roughly what the Xbox 360 250GB console is available for), which includes an Xbox 360 4GB console, a Kinect sensor, and Kinect Adventures.

Microsoft's Jaspreet Bindra,

the head of the Entertainment and Devices Division in India, emphasized how the Kinect and its Natural User Interface (NUI) would transform the Indian living room, and "remove the last barrier between the user and the machine."

The Kinect controller-free interface was hailed by Bindra as especially suitable for the Indian environment – apparently we Indians "use gestures a lot", and are a very social bunch, with games no less social for us than a tea party. The intention is to bring people together



in the living room with a new kind of social video gaming. The Kinect was first launched overseas and its implications as a video game/user interface controller have already been much discussed across the world. Bindra clarified the Kinect's position in a hardcore gamer's

arsenal, saying that "core gamers" will probably stick with the Xbox 360 wireless controllers for such games as Gears of War, Fable 3, etc., while the Kinect will open up the world of modern video gaming, living room and Xbox Live competition to the casual, social gamer. **d**



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Samsung made Google Nexus S finally goes official, touting Gingerbread and NFC Google Nexus S

So, the much previewed Google Nexus S has finally been officially announced by Google, confirming the specifications, and providing a launch date of December 16th.

The phone will be the first device to be released with the Google Android 2.3 Gingerbread operating system, and platform's SDK has been released as well (for a detailed list of new features, check out our other coverage).

In case you missed the buzz about the device, the Google

Nexus S features a slightly unconventional curved 'Contour' touchscreen, and is an evolution of the Samsung Galaxy S that is supposed to aid ease of use in a touch-based interface.

The phone will also be one of the first commercial devices to support Near Field Communication (NFC), allowing the device to interact with its electronic environment in ways that Google likens to "magic". Some of the expected applications will be various augmented reality functions, as well as



personal identification, mobile "electronic wallet" payment systems, etc.

As you'd expect, the Google Nexus S will not be hitting Indian shores just yet, but it is reasonable that a similar variant of the Samsung Galaxy S i9020 will arrive India. The

current unlocked price state-side of \$529 can give you a very rough idea of the expected price (~ ₹24,000).

Google Nexus One owners will also be glad to know that an Android 2.3 Gingerbread will be heading their way soon, within the next few weeks. **d**

Sharp to bring 3D-capable smartphones to India in 2011

Sharp, the Japanese consumer electronics giant who recently made an entry into the Indian mobility market, has announced it will be bringing in 3D smartphones to India, China, and the United States by 2011, probably in the form

of the recently introduced Galapagos Android handsets, featured below. This information also matches the 4-5 month timeline Sharp had given us for bringing in high-end smartphones into the Indian market, as well as previous indications that Sharp would launch a 3D smartphone

by the end of the year (the Galapagos 003SH is scheduled arrive on Japanese carrier, Softbank's network by December)

While it is not definite that the 3D-capable smartphones Sharp will bring into the Indian market will be the Galapagos 003SH and 005SH handsets, let us take

a look at them to give us a fair idea of what we might soon have in store for us. Both phones are nearly identical, with the 005SH featuring a QWERTY sliding keyboard in addition. Both phones have a 3.8-inch auto-stereoscopic display similar to that on the upcoming Nintendo 3DS portable game console, with a resolution of 800x480 pixels. They will be powered by a 1GHz Snapdragon processor, and run Android Froyo.

While both phones are capable of recording 720p HD video, the 003SH has a 9.6MP camera onboard, while the 005SH has an 8MP camera. **d**

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Micromax Andro A60 and Huawei Ideos U8140 – inexpensive Android redefined

Android surely is making its mark on the mobile world, racing up the charts across the globe,

the majority going in for lower end devices from Samsung and LG. Indian brands have joined in on the fun, with Videocon and Spice also releasing low cost Android handsets.

Now it looks like two more companies will be bringing low-end Android phones into the Indian market, including the nation's top mobile brand – Micromax.

Micromax has officially released the Andro A60 for ₹6,999, an Android

2.1-based mobile with a 600 MHz processor along with a 2.8-inch resistive touchscreen and a 3.2MP camera with auto

focus. Micromax is also keen on launching a 3.5-inch display Android phone soon, as well as 7-inch tablet.

Huawei, the Chinese telecommunications giant, has announced it will be bringing the Ideos U8140 to India, its popular and inexpensive Android 2.2 Froyo smartphone. It will apparently launch sometime this month, and will cost less than ₹8,000, putting it in direct competition against the recently announced Micromax

Andro as well as the Galaxy 5, with some distinct advantages. The first of those is the Ideos' Android 2.2 Froyo operating system, instead of 2.1 Eclair the



A60 6151



Huawei Ideos

and demand has never been higher. India too has its fair share of Android lovers, with

Andro and Galaxy 5 possess. The next is a 2.8-inch capacitive touchscreen compared to the Andro's resistive touchscreen.

Huawei will supposedly also be bringing its recently released, higher-end Android Froyo handsets into the Indian market by mid-January, called the Ideos X5 and X6. **d**

Notion Ink Adam finally goes up for pre-order, blog patrons get priority

The Notion Ink Adam, one of the most looked forward to tablets of 2010, has finally reared its beautiful head again, and went up for pre-orders on the 9th of December.

According to Notion Ink's blog, long time 'mem-

bers' (commentators) of the blog got priority during the pre-orders, so we hope you weren't too shocked if everything was sold out by the time you tried to put down the cash.

There are four available variants, and pricing starts at \$357.33 for the entry-level

variant, which will offer an LCD screen and Wi-Fi connectivity. Next up is the LCD Wi-Fi + 3G model, going for \$425.33. The Pixel Qi transreflective display bearing Adam's are as expected, much more expensive, and go for \$499.45 for the Wi-Fi only version, while

the Wi-Fi + 3G version goes for \$549.99.

If you were hoping to pre-order a Pixel Qi display bearing Adam, you should have done so when you had the chance, because they are now all officially sold out! Well, at least you can have the LCD version!

Shipping will conclude in 6-8 weeks from booking date, and just in case you got a defective piece, you unfortunately are not assured of free replacement according to the current terms and conditions, instead, there's a 5% "repack" fee and a 5% "service fee" that will be added on. **d**

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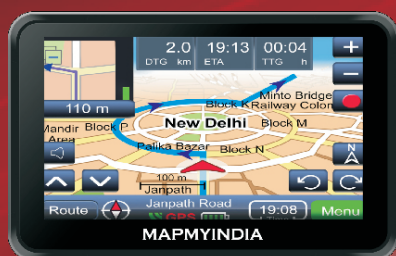
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**HTC Desire HD for ₹27,499**

HTC Desire HD started pre-orders on Indian web sites at ₹27,499, and will start selling by January 2011

Google Chrome Web Store now open for business

Not in India of course. The Google Chrome Web Store, the suspiciously "open" web store that will only work on Google's Chrome browser is now open for business.

To make it easier to discover applications and pay for them and authenticate to them, Google had announced during Google I/O 2010 that they would be launching a store of sorts for web applications, where people could browse, discover and purchase web applications just as they could normal desktop applications.

Soon after Google had opened up the Web Store for developers to post their applications. Developing applications for the Chrome Web Store could be as simple as pointing it to your current web site or service, to enabling specific desktop integration features such as offline storage, Geolocation, notifications etc.

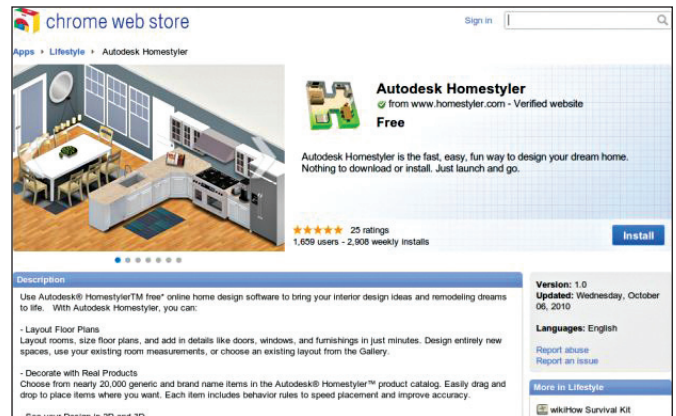
The mechanism for working with Google Chrome Web Apps is quite similar to working with Google Chrome extensions. You simply browse the Google Chrome Web Store, find an application you like and click on "Install". If the application is a paid product, then there is an intermediary step in which you pay for the app/service. Applications installed onto Chrome will appear on your new tab page, from where you can set an application's options and you can set how to launch the application. You can set applications to launch as normal tabs, pinned tabs or in fullscreen.

Since Google Chrome has supported syncing applications and extensions to your Google

Chrome profile for a while now, it is possible for you to enable the same, and get the same consistent list of applications installed on all your Google Chrome instances and devices.

The Google Chrome Web Store is meant to compliment the Google Chrome OS-based netbooks that Google has just begun sending to testers. With a netbook that runs only a browser, and where all applications are run in the browser, the feasibility of web applications as replacements for desktops will be put to a serious test.

Meanwhile Mozilla has its own plans for a completely open web store ecosystem that unlike Google's Chrome Web Store is not tied to any browser. Mozilla's concept goes beyond any single store or single provider, but aims instead to be like the internet decentralized. Mozilla continues to refine its plans even as Google's store goes online.



Experience apps at Chrome's web store

With browsers and internet speeds getting increasingly faster, even complicated web applications such as image editors, video editors and even 3D applications are becoming feasible and available. Google Chrome itself is seeing an increasing share in usage, and the Web store will only help in that. With paid applications tied to a particular browser though, users will quickly become lim-

ited to Google Chrome after they have made a few purchases, and will not be able to take advantage of latest developments in other browsers.

While the Google Chrome Web Store is an interesting concept that takes the concept of web applications forward, it does seem to take a step back as well. We look forward to further developments in Mozilla's Open Web Store concept. **[d]**

Google Wave to live on as Apache Wave

Google Wave was an incredibly optimistic Google project aimed at the future of communication, but ended up in the scrap pile. We believe that Google's decision to abandon the project was a little too early, but that's all in the past. Google Wave will now live on as Apache Wave.

While Wave's protocol was released as an open specification, and other companies have made products based on the technology, there wasn't a complete Google Wave server available that was as complete as Google's

own implementation. Google intended to rectify that, and allow people to export all their Google Wave data before shutting down Google Wave for good at the end of this year. Google was to release what it called "Wave in the Box" a complete implementation of Wave that anyone could host on their own server. Since no solution is currently available to replace Google Wave, the service will continue to operate until there is a way for everyone to export their waves from Google Wave and host them on their own server.

As an open source product that intends to go beyond a single vendor, and become a part of the future of the internet itself, Apache is possibly the best home for Google Wave. Apache is known for the Apache HTTP server that is the most popular open source server in existence. It is one of the most successful open source projects of all time, and is often bundled even with proprietary applications.

Now part of Apache's incubator program, Wave should grow since Google believes there exists "a healthy community of startups, independent developers, and industry partners enthusiastic to continue development of the Wave Federation protocols and Wave in a Box product". **[d]**

About.me

A new startup, <http://About.Me> by American Online aims to bring all your online content under one URL

Windows 8 tablet at CES2011

Rumours have it that Steve Ballmer will showcase a Windows 8 tablet device at CES 2011

Web Watch

CityVille now bigger than FarmVille

Apparently the biggest Facebook buzz at the end of December was that CityVille was an even bigger runaway success for Zynga than FarmVille. According to numbers released by appdata.com, CityVille had a massive userbase of over 61 million users. Poor old FarmVille was already lagging behind with a mere 56+ million user base – animals are only cute for so long.

What exactly these millions of users see in Zynga's games, in all honesty, is still a mystery to us, but they seem to have the pulse of the Facebook user, that's for sure.

We're wondering how many man hours a month are wasted on these games, since a lot of people are probably playing this in their offices.

A quick survey of our own office revealed that about 15 people had played CityVille or FarmVille at some point in the last month, and claimed to be very addicted to such games. Interestingly, all of them were below the age of 24, and all of them only played the game when in office. We calculated that each of them lost about 30 man hours to the games per month. If we assume that to be average, that's 61 million x 30 = 1.8 billion (yes, billion) man hours being wasted per month! **d**

Mozilla wants to protect your privacy

Aza Raskin, UI designer for Mozilla, said in a blog post on his site, azarask.in that he'd like to see sites start using icons to symbolize what they do with your data. For example, do they give your data to advertisers, or use your data in a way not apparent to you, etc. There are also icons to denote how long the data is kept – under a month, indefinitely, etc.

The idea here is to get sites to start displaying these icons in a way that will bring transparency to the web. It's a noble effort, but one thing's not clear at all to us...

How on earth is anyone ever going to get sites to adopt this? The sites that never share your data with anyone else might be the ones most eager to do so, but what about the rest? With the majority of sites these days sharing your data with advertisers, in order to get some revenues, by showcasing the types of visitors they have, who in their right mind would make a business decision to specifically remind their users that their data is shared with advertisers, or that it's kept indefinitely?

This is another case of a noble thought that just wasn't thought through to completion, or else, just a little naive. **d**

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Stuxnet affecting Indian systems

xStuxnet, a Windows based worm which affects the programmable logic controllers in industrial setups has already affected 10,000 Indian systems

MS using ARM power

According to a Bloomberg report Microsoft is developing a Windows OS to run on ARM chip architecture

Opera 11. Finally!

Opera's latest version brings a whole new way of managing tabs – a feature called “Tab stacking”. This feature gives tab management another dimension, as you are able to group tabs together in a stack. These grouped tabs can be handled like a single tab. Tab stacks can be expanded, collapsed and unstacked. For more about this feature, you can check out our preview of the beta build – it hasn't changed feature-wise since then.

Another great feature in Opera 11 is extension support. Opera has added a new extension mechanism in this version that allows developers to add features to the browser. Additionally, Opera users can now download extensions from the new Opera extensions web site hosted at addons.opera.com. Some popular browser extensions such

as LastPass and YouTube video downloader and ad blockers are already available, and there are now hundreds of extensions for Opera fans to choose from.

This version also features changes to the address field, which aims to reduce the amount of unnecessary data shown, and give you information about your security and connectivity status in a single glance. The browser now also has a visual cuing system that helps you understand mouse gestures. Also, Opera now has a setting that allows you to change the default behaviour of browser plugins, which can now be set to load on demand rather than automatically.

Opera 11 is available to download for Windows, Linux and Mac OSX, from the Opera web-site. What's more, the new version is also a 30 per cent smaller file to download. **d**

H.264 video comes to Firefox via Microsoft

Microsoft has shown its commitment to HTML5 in Internet Explorer already, with their countless demos and support in their upcoming IE9 browser, however it seems their support extends beyond Internet Explorer.

Microsoft has released a new add-on for Firefox that will make the browser capable of playing back H.264 video by tapping into the codecs installed on the system. It uses the Windows Media Player plug-in to play back video. Obviously it will work only on Windows, only Windows 7 in fact.

The add-on looks for instances of HTML5 video, and replaces the video with an instance of the Windows Media

player plug-in, pointed to the same video source file. Since the video is not actually playing in the browser itself, but in a plug-in, this has no advantages over just using the Flash Player.

Mozilla has been stringent about not supporting H.264 for HTML5 video in Firefox, and for good reason. While H.264 is popularly supported as an HTML5 video format and supported as such in Google Chrome and Apple Safari, it is in fact not part of the HTML5 standard, which is still mute when it comes to a standard video format for the web. H.264 has considerable licensing restrictions that make it not only the wrong choice as a format for the open web, but also expensive for companies such as Mozilla to use in their browser. It is another matter entirely for Google, which has no dearth of money, or for Apple and Microsoft, both of whom are licensors of patents used in H.264, and thus stand to gain from its adoption.

Mozilla, and Opera Software have instead decided to stand behind WebM and Theora as future standards for the web. In any case WebM is a better contender for the format of choice on the web in the future than H.264 due to its open nature.

If you are looking for the converse, i.e. HTML5 support in Internet Explorer, that too exists in the form of a codec pack by Xiph – the creators of Ogg. This codec pack includes an optional component that adds support for the HTML5 video tag, with support for WebM / VP8 and Ogg Theora video, as an ActiveX plug-in for Internet Explorer. **d**

Facebook launches “modern messaging system” with a consolidated inbox

Mark Zuckerberg recently named Time Magazine's Person of the Year, has had busy 2010. In the closing stages of the year, he announced a “modern messaging system”, which will allow users to have a unified “social inbox” for their email, chat, Facebook messages, IM and SMS, along with consolidated history for each contact. Zuckerberg emphasised that this was not an “email killer”, and that any email service could be used. Users will also be able to register for a @facebook.com

email address.

The messaging system's support for SMS precludes the need for an app, though of course to view the inbox natively new official apps for various platforms will be released in the near future. IMAP support will also be arriving shortly. The entire messaging system will take a while to rollout globally, with a timescale of a few months.

Zuckerberg spoke about how this was the first major step towards achieving Facebook's vision of the future of communication, and how based

on feedback from high school kids they decided to make it less “formal”, and instead, focus on creating a system that was “seamless, informal, immediate, personal, simple, minimal, and short.”

For all this to fit inside the Facebook ecology, an unusually large team (for Facebook) of 15 engineers supposedly “completely rebuilt the [messaging] infrastructure”, replacing the previous Cassandra system with “hBase”, which was developed by working closely with the open source community. **d**

ZERO TO ECSTASY



Pulsar
INDIA'S NO.1 SPORTS BIKE
www.myspides.com

Google and Facebook most visited

According to Opera's State of the Mobile Web report 2010, Google emerged as the top site surfed on mobile web

Mac App Store comin soon

The Mac App store will go live for business on January 6, 2011

Web Awards 2010

Team Digit
readersletters@thinkdigit.com



and News. The other 6 categories will be posted as an ongoing series on our web site, www.thinkdigit.com.

HOW WE TESTED

Like everything else in digit, we were extremely fastidious about the way we conducted our testing. The first step was to identify the contenders for each of the categories, we didn't want to miss out on identifying any player no matter how small. But after identifying the players we quickly sorted the wheat

from the chaff and started a stringent test process. A common set of tests were drawn up, such as, load time, W3C compliance, search quality, ease of navigation, browser compatibility etc. and each web site rigorously rated on each test parameter. But since each category was unique in itself we went about defining 'depth' for each category. For instance to quantify Gaming, we gave scores for community interactivity, availability of multiplayer games, quality of games, submit game option, leaderboards etc. The same was done for each category of web site. So now without further ado lets start off with the Digit Web Awards 2010.

GAMING

Online gaming has been growing by leaps and bounds over the last decade, and the continued development of Flash and other frameworks have contributed to the general ease of accessibility, for people of all ages. The platforms, frameworks, browsers and internet speeds are advancing so fast in fact, that the near future may hold the majority of games in the online space, from casual games to full fledged mammoths. Keeping these and other factors in mind, we decided to not restrict ourselves to only Indian web sites for this category. After all gaming is universal and as a service is not location dependent.

When discussing casual gaming portals for our Web Awards of 2010 with this broader outlook, the first site that popped into our minds was Miniclip.com, presumably a strong contender. But as we progressed through our well-structured test processes for Web Awards, we started to realise another, much newer, site was making a much bigger splash than Miniclip.com, a splash that went far beyond the

metrics we were applying, all the way from the site's overall design to its community interactivity and freshness.

Started in June 2006 by a brother and sister duo named Emily and Jim Greer, Kongregate was released to the general public in December 2006, and officially entered beta testing in late-March 2007, and hasn't looked back since. In fact, it became so popular that the game retailing behemoth, GameStop, acquired the company in July of 2010.

Kongregate had over 36,000 free online games divided across 10 categories on its site when we began writing this article, and while sheer diversity was a big factor when scoring the portals, perhaps the best thing about the site is how it is actually built around the games' developers and users themselves, with very strong builder/player community ties.

While five out of the six sites (Miniclip, Zapak, AddictingGames, Pogo, Kongregate, FreeOnlineGames) in our line-up

had the option for users to submit a game, Kongregate accepts only user-created Adobe Flash or Adobe Director games, and, also provides developers with an API to help integrate scores, leaderboards, and achievement badges on a site-wide basis.

This seriously ups the potential for long-time playability, something nearly unheard of in online Flash games. Users want to increase their reputation and level up, similar to an MMO, except this is site-wide, and not restricted to just one game, though of course, each game has its own leaderboards. Accomplish game-



iPad2 rumours

A Chinese source states that the iPad 2 will be slimmer and have the 9.7-inch display with rear facing speakers



Body Browser

Google's new tool, the Body Browser, gives you a 3D view of the human body, allowing zooming into the body as well

Web awards

specific achievements and challenges, rate others' games and artworks, and create your games; then watch as your name rises up the ranks and badges/quests flood your profile – a thrill that tempts nearly everyone. Apart from just your level/reputation, you also earn other rewards, such as collectable cards in the Kongai multiplayer game, which is described by one of the administrators as "Card-based tag-team, rock-paper scissors Street Fighter with +10 awesomeness 5/5."

Often, Kongregate also organises sweepstakes, allowing users to win prizes such as game DVDs and consoles by earning the correct badge, and taking part in the lucky draw.

The site features only free games, but just like free-to-play MMO portals, also offers virtual currency for in-game on-site micro-transactions, and these are called Kreds. While only some games support the purchasing of abilities and items, users can also donate Kreds to developers in their tip jars, contributing to the developer's further progress. There are numerous payment methods avail-

able for users to purchase Kreds, from PayPal to pre-paid cards and credit cards.

Another unique addition to Kongregate's offerings is the Art and Sounds section, something that you won't find elsewhere apart from game developer forums. The section helps artists show off their work, and collaborate with game developers in creating games. As mentioned earlier, these artworks can also be rated by users, a task that has the incentive of levelling up.

Like most of the other gaming portals, Kongregate also features user profiles and the ability for everyone to view them, though its offerings are a bit more detailed than others. Viewers will also be able to see which games which user has chosen as favourites, see the badges and cards they have earned, as well as the games they have created. Users can also share levels (from an in-game level editor) that they have created with other users. Apart from all this, users can 'friend' other users, or become their fans, allowing them to leave comments on each other's profile pages, and get updates.

FIRST RUNNER-UP

MiniClip.com

Miniclip.com, started in 2001 by the British duo Robert Small and Tihan Presbie, is one of the top gaming portals on the web today, pulling in more than £20 million in annual turnovers in recent years. The site has offered various other types content apart from just games to its users in the past, from TV shows to e-cards, and today, is also well-known for its quirky videos.

Overall, looking at everything from sheer variety, ease of navigation/discovery, load times, community strength and interactivity, game quality, browser compatibility and visual appeal, Kongregate is our Web Award winner for the Casual Gaming category, leading the runner-up by a substantial margin. The only negative points we can find about the site is the lack of a sitemap, and the inability to see all games across all categories listed alphabetically.

**3M India
MCX
SEBI
HSBC
NSE
Barclays
Stumpp Scheule
GE Money
Religare Realty
ITC Maurya
Hyatt Regency
Taj Lands End
ICICI Knowledge Park
Hindustan Aeronautics
CP Office Mumbai
Nestle India
Barco
Jubilant Organosys
Hero Honda Motors
Accenture
Diamond Board**

Partial List

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VisiteXTM
Visitor Management

Internet on your TV

According to analysts, 25 per cent of the TVs sold next year will be internet-enabled



Dell Venue launched

Dell launched its Android 2.2 phone, the Dell Venue globally. It features a 4.1-inch AMOLED screen and an 8MP camera

SHOPPING

We devoted considerable amount of time and energy to this category. The reasons are obvious

– it's perhaps be the most relevant category to you readers and we always want you to make the right choices when it comes to buying tech products. This category is special also because surprisingly, when it comes to tech shopping web sites the universe is very large. In fact we had to go ahead and sub-categorise it into Consumer Tech and Tech Components. The former encompasses around 20 web sites that deal in gadgets and electronics such as phones, laptops, printers, tablets, e-readers, PMPs and many more. The Tech Components category on the other hand compared eight of the best web sites that dealt with PC hardware – we're talking about hardcore geek stuff – graphics cards, HDDs, memory, processors et al.

We had a rigorous test process that took into account a number of factors including scoring for things like number of categories, comparative prices, availability of specialised products, payment options etc.

But as we got closer to our results a strange debate started to ensue within the team. The topic of online shopping divided Team Digit, and the generally docile geeks were up in arms at the middle of the night. Several personal narrations and a Facebook post later (*see box "What you said..."*), we reached a conclusion.

The topic in question was whether a large percentage of net savvy Indians shop online in the first place, or is the general junta still afraid of e-commerce. It turns out that while the number is increasing rapidly, majority of Indians are still conservative about anything that has to do with money and online. We expect people to fraud us, and sites to rob us the moment we put the smallest detail of our bank/card accounts online. These fears are not born out of nothing. Our sympathies are with everyone who have been duped by well known sites and sellers. But perhaps we're all realising it's time to put these fears aside and take a dip (if not a dive) in the waters of online shopping.

Consumer tech

There are several classes of products that make up consumer tech. In the following writeup we try to discuss various options for some of these and then eventually, based on the scores come up with an overall winner that can be regarded as the best overall destination for consumer tech shopping.

Mobile-havens

Mobiles are the most sought after gadget these days, and there are portals dedicated for selling just them. A general trend we observed was that these stores are backed by a popular retail chains. Probably the most popular mobile selling chain is Mobile Store. Its web site is slightly disappointing compared to BigCMobiles.in, that offered much better deals. But, BigCMobiles could do some work on their site, as it is very buggy. But the best of the lot is without doubt Univercell.in, selling more than 800 different models at the most competitive prices. Again, the chain from Chennai hasn't done much work on their site. We would have particularly liked to see some proper filters on this site, something that the huge collection demanded.

Market places

eBay is a marketplace of huge proportions, and unlike the online shops in this test, eBay is just a collection of sellers, big and small, who come and sell their products on the site. As a web site, we found eBay to be fairly decent. Extremely easy to browse around, eBay has excellent filters that help you choose from the wide variety available. But we still don't find eBay searchable enough, mainly because a search for 'Nokia N8' would throw up N8 models from all the sellers on the web site, without any sort of grouping. And thrown in the mix are screen guards and cases. Combine this with the fact that you must not forget to check the filter for displaying only 'New' products is irritating. Seller reputation is

the indicator of honesty on eBay, but we wonder how difficult it is for sellers to fake that. eBay, on their part, have introduced a system called PaisaPay, under which they don't pay the amount to the seller until your units are delivered. But does it ensure quality of the product? eBay may be the 'go to' place for online shopping of all kinds, but when it comes to consumer tech, the experience was a little lacklustre. Indiatimes Shopping is another marketplace. Nowhere close to the proportions of eBay, the only thing we can say is that it makes search easier, which is probably due to the limited number of sellers.

The notables

In the last few years, many online shopping sites have cropped up, leading to many innovations being introduced by these sellers. Smartshoppers.in for example,

has a decent collection of laptops, with a notable quantity of cameras and other photography equipment. The site stood out for its five days "no questions asked" return policy on most offers. Whether it is honoured, when invoked, is something you readers can tell us in your feedback. Tradus.in provides free shipping and a good 15 days return policy. AdexMart offers free shipping as well as transit-insurance on the products, along with Warranty and bill. It also delivers product on Cash-on-delivery basis in some cities.

And the winner is...

Infibeam is one of the most impressive sites in our test. Excellent deals, accompa-



*DirectX 11
Done Right*



*Immersive 3D
Gaming*

A New Class Of Fermi Graphics



PhysX
by NVIDIA



GEFORCE GTX 460

	GTX 460	GTX 460 Sonic	GTX 460 Sonic Platinum	GTX 460 Sonic 2GB
DirectX	DirectX 11	DirectX 11	DirectX 11	DirectX 11
Memory Amount	768 MB	1024 MB	1024 MB	2048 MB
Memory Interface	192 bits	256 bits	256 bits	256 bits
Graphics Clock	675 MHz	700 MHz	800 MHz	700 MHz
Memory Clock	1800 MHz (DDR 3600)	1800 MHz (DDR 3600)	2000 MHz (DDR 4000)	1800 MHz (DDR 3600)
DRAM type	GDDR5	GDDR5	GDDR5	GDDR5
Video Support	DVI / VGA / HDMI	Dual DVI / VGA / HDMI	Dual DVI / VGA / HDMI	Dual DVI / VGA / HDMI



GEFORCE GTS 450

	GTS 450	GTS 450 SONIC	GTS 450 SONIC PLATINUM
DirectX	DirectX 11	DirectX 11	DirectX 11
Memory Amount	1024 MB	1024 MB	1024 MB
Memory Interface	128 bits	128 bits	128 bits
Graphics Clock	783 MHz	880 MHz	930 MHz
Memory Clock	1804 MHz (DDR 3608)	1950 MHz (DDR 3900)	2000 MHz (DDR 4000)
DRAM type	GDDR5	GDDR5	GDDR5
Video Support	DVI / VGA / HDMI	Dual DVI / VGA / HDMI	Dual DVI / VGA / HDMI



GEFORCE GTS 450

	GTS 450
DirectX	DirectX 11
Memory Amount	1024 MB
Memory Interface	128 bits
Graphics Clock	783 MHz
Memory Clock	1804 MHz (DDR 3608)
DRAM type	GDDR5
Video Support	DVI / HDMI



GEFORCE GT 430

	GT 430
DirectX	DirectX 11
Memory Amount	1024 MB
Memory Interface	128 bits
Graphics Clock	700 MHz
Processor Clock	1400 MHz
Memory Clock	800 MHz (DDR 1600)
DRAM type	DDR3
Video Support	DVI / VGA / HDMI

Facebook trumps Yahoo!

Facebook has surpassed Yahoo! to emerge as the second largest traffic source for videos on media sites

Replacing fiber optics

DARPA and Raytheon are developing free-space photon networks to replace fibre optics

nied by a very good interface with filters that out do those of eBay. While searching for a phone, we could even select one on basis of operating system. Add to this the crowning glory of the site, cash-on-delivery, perhaps the safest payment mode known to webkind. But, they still don't allow you to open the product, do they? So that is just half of the problem solved. Maybe we are just being paranoid. To conclude, all things considered, all scored evaluated, the winner of Tech-shopping – Consumer Tech category is definitely Infibeam.com.

Tech components

In this category we looked at web sites that specialise in IT hardware components. Like we said earlier, these are things that go inside a PC – processors, motherboards... that kind of stuff. Web sites shortlisted for this test included sites such as TheITwares, Mediahome.in, TechShop.in and many more. While some of these web sites do offer products that fall under the domain of general Consumer Tech, that wasn't their prime focus area.

When going about this comparison we focused on key criteria based on the pattern in which people shop – settle on a budget, make the best possible config, go out (or online) and check if those exact components are available, then buy. Depending on availability, you will then modify your config to the best possible one considering availability. A good web site, hence, should be one that can give you all your desired compo-

nents in one place, at one go. If you have to go from pillar to post and order 12 different components from 12 different web sites, it makes no sense considering the multiple shipping charges. Therefore we gave a lot of importance and weightage to availability. Next in priority was price. We took a random sample of a few products and compared prices across the board. The web site with the least expensive products got a better score. Now let's get down to some of the things that emerged while testing...

Remember Deltapage? The page earlier

used to have just a very frequently updated listing of components and their market prices. Now redirecting to the shop first, the web site shows a decent quantum of products. The theITwares.in and theITdepot.com had a good user interface and scored high in ease of discovery thanks to their filters. Once in the main category, theITdepot.com even had check boxes to narrow down by parameters such as clock speed in case of processor. MediaHome had some hard to acquire and "famous-on-forums" type of products such as Biostar Graphics cards at very inexpensive prices, but the overall variety was not very good. TheITdepot had the largest range of graphics cards. Lynx-India.com and Techshop.in were strictly OK in terms of overall range and price, but at the same time had some fantastic deals on some products.

Another contender, Primeabgb had a reasonably large range of products (though not as much as TheITDepot) and festive offers. But the web site had some weird categorisation. For instance, "Belking Products" showing up in between categories like Graphic Cards, DVD Burners etc.

Finally to conclude, after looking at overall ratings in the light of weights that we assigned, theitdepot.com emerged as the winner, thanks to its wide range of products in each category, ease of search and navigation, and the visual appeal. The prices were one factor were it lost to some by a little but not by a lot.

What you said...



Sourav Choudhary Depends On from where I am purchasing! Purchasing online is good and I have done it a dozen times in the past but then too I don't trust it fully! :(



Tafzal Shaikh I guess more % of people used online e-commerce as price comparing tool & free preview with technical features for actual ground product :P



Krishnandu Sarkar As for me, I'm not scared, but shopping really depends on the deals. I bought many items, even books online as they holds best prices there, even after including the shipping charge. And some items were lower on local shops. So for me it depends on the price and deal.



Jesin A Jesin Many people are too scared to give away their debit/credit card numbers online. They don't even wish to learn how the online payment process works. They just hear stories of how money was stolen from Mr. X online and they don't see the details either, all they can think of is "money stolen" and "online"

THE IT DEPOT

HOME ABOUT US CONTACT US SHOPPING CART REGISTER SIGN-IN REWARD POINTS

COMPUTER HARDWARE LAPTOPS APPLE DIGITAL CAMERAS ELECTRONICS GAMING NETWORKING SOFTWARE

WELCOME Guest

digit WEB AWARDS Winner - Shopping

CM V6 GT CPU Cooler ₹ 5280/-

Thrustmaster Ferrari GT ₹ 4590/-

Sennheiser OMX680 Earphone ₹ 2690/-

Logitech STORE Antec STORE AMD STORE BELKIN STORE

DEAL OF THE DAY

Logitech MX518 Gaming-Grade Optical Mouse

Play to dominate with a gaming-grade mouse that delivers extreme response and unprecedented control.

₹ 1496 ₹ 1445

Add to Cart

FEATURE PRODUCT

Avermedia DarkCrystal HD Capture Station (CB74)

Avermedia DarkCrystal HD Capture Station (CB74) Pass through Content while Recording, IR Blaster and Scheduled Recording.

₹ 12560

YOUR SHOPPING CART

Products - 0

Quantity - 0

Honeycomb tablet in March?

An off the record remark about MSI launching Tegra 2 tablets in April or May, has started rumours that we can expect to see Android 3.0 in March

NEWS

Newspapers used to be the way we got our news-fix everyday, but the trend is dying, it would appear. It's obvious why the focus for news companies has shifted to the web. When reviewing these sites, we considered the top newspapers, magazines and even news aggregating sites. Each site was ranked on the basis of relevancy, frequency of updates, ease of navigation, search capabilities, the feedback mechanism, design, depth of the site and, of course, overall experience.

Print papers, such as The Times of India (TOI), Hindustan Times (HT), Indian Express (IE) and The Hindu were the most impressive amongst the lot. TOI had the most depth among all the news sites, but still had less news than



THE TIMES OF INDIA
Thu, Dec 23, 2010 | Updated 10:32pm IST

Home City India World Business Tech Sports Entertainment Lifestyle
Opinion Blogs Auto Science Environment Education Polls Speak Out Surveys

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digit WEB AWARDS Winner - News

'ISI chief won't appear in US court over Mumbai attack'
JANS 2 hours ago
Addressing the National Assembly, Yousaf Gilani said the ISI "is a sensitive agency of the Pakistani military and it is unimaginable that we will force their officers to appear in the US court on foreign dictation". |

- Headley had 'hatred' towards India: US cable
- Hafiz Saeed makes public appearance
- Kasab throws tantrums, spits on camera |

HC directs N D Tiwari to give blood sample for paternity test
PTI
Rejecting the Congress leader's plea, Delhi HC directed him to undergo a DNA test to verify a youth's claim that he is his biological son saying that it was not in the child's interest to be declared a bastard. |

- File: After sex sting, Tiwari ejects prematurely |
- Sex tape: Andhra governor N D Tiwari resigns |

Karmakaram, a master tactician and a king

OTHER TOP STORIES

- Flashback '10: Controversies galore
- Sachin is the real Bharat Ratna for me: Lata
- Chandrababu Naidu shifted to ICU, CM adamant
- Hurley blames Indian media for making up stories
- ET: Is it the right time to break old fixed deposit

aggregating sites such as Google and Yahoo News – which was expected. Some might think that comparing news web sites with aggregators is unfair, but a user wouldn't care where he or she got their news from, right?

HT had a more vibrant layout and decent balance of text and images, whereas TOI had a lot of text. Categorisation in both was quite exhaustive. Web sites of TV news channels such as NDTV, CNBC and IBN Live had more video content, as expected. IBN Live was well balanced with news and videos.

All the sites integrated well with social networking sites. IE looked good but its placement of advertisements in the central column on most web pages was indeed strange. In terms of aggregators, Yahoo News had the best interface.

The sites of Economic Times(ET) and Mint, the business dailies, had a lot of contrast in terms of layout, design and depth. While ET seemed more text heavy, Mint appeared more youthful with bold images and vertical tabbed categorisation.

The Times of India emerged as the winner in our testing followed closely by IBN Live, and Google News at number three. The thing that really worked in its favour despite being a news aggregator is the systematic arrangement of news, recency of updates and search prowess.

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Ashes on your mobile

Zapak, Jump Games and Codemasters have collaborated to release Ashes, a cricket game for mobile users

14 million

Analysts pegged the sales of SuperSpeed USB 3.0 devices to 14 million by 2010 and predict a further 12x jump by 2014

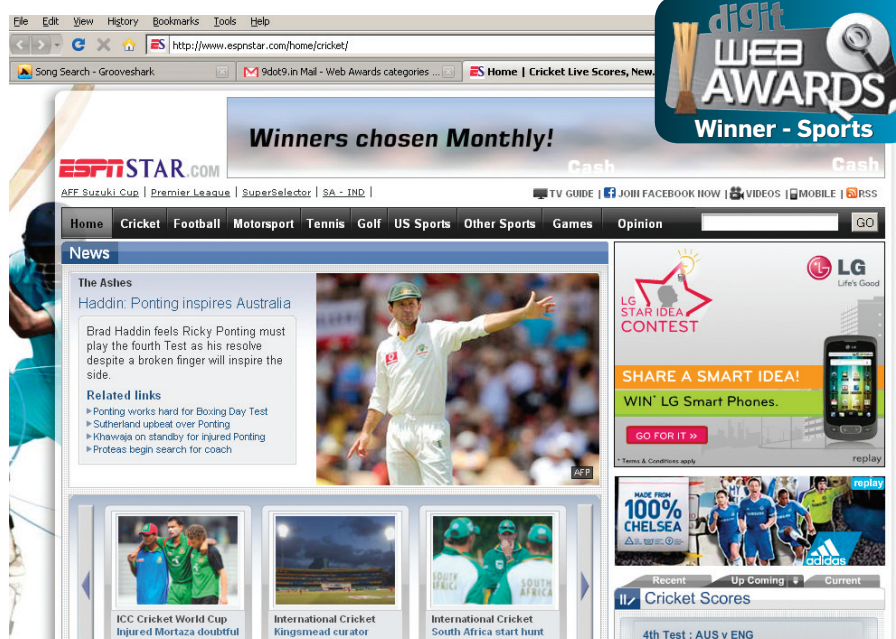
SPORTS

Sports following in India is about as divided as the Soviet Union – one huge section and many little pockets of “others”. We’re obsessed with cricket as a country, but there are still those who follow other sports. As expected, we couldn’t really find any popular web site that was dedicated to a sport other than cricket. In fact, Espnstar.com was the only web site that’s popular in India to carry news of other sports as well – and traffic stats show that this is probably the reason why non-cricket junkies flock here.

We shortlisted five sites for the showdown: Espnstar.com, Cricinfo, Cricbuzz.com, Cricket365.com and Cricketworld.com.

The load times for almost all these sites were respectable, with Cricbuzz clocking the lowest time. As far as the first look of the site goes, we loved Cricketworld.com for its neatly separated columns and a striking background (‘Ashes’ at the time of testing). Also important is the number of news articles the site can provide on a single page in a neat layout. Cricketworld was tops with a well populated and neat homepage.

As far as the content of these sites goes, they are all at par, as far as news articles are concerned. However, the thing that sets a sports site apart is the quality of opinion articles and blogs. Cricinfo and EspnStar take the lead here. Cricinfo has more than a dozen



blogs, comprising writers from around the world. From Andy Zaltman’s pain-inducingly-funny *The Confectionery Stall* to Samir Chopra’s thoughtful *Different Strokes*, Cricinfo blogs make good reading for anyone with the slightest interest in cricket. Espnstar, however, maintains a catalog of blogs and opinion articles over a wide array of sports. They are usually updated once a week, as compared to almost three new blog entries on Cricinfo everyday.

However, keeping the user hooked to a sports site is a different art altogether – provide more news and articles, closely related in topic and chronology to the current article. Cricbuzz provides the maximum avenues from a single article with visible boxes for both related news and latest news. Espnstar provides related stories that can keep you hooked. All sites except Cricbuzz provide a readily accessible search-box, but Cricinfo really pulls away from the competition here. It provides a comprehensive search, providing separate search results for stories, video/audio, blogs, photos and player bios. It even provides ‘Quotes’ matching the search query, along with interesting articles from the Wisden Almanack. When we searched for “Sachin”, it kept us hooked for a good part of our office hours. The other sites have decent engines, but they search only for news.

Sports enthusiasts thrive on discussions and dissection of matches. Cricketworld and Cricket365 provide not-so-active forums, while Espnstar and Cricinfo have Facebook communities with 92,248 and 286,140 likes, respectively, at the time of writing. Espnstar and Cricinfo really use the power of their Facebook communities by implementing F-Connect and Disqus commenting systems that aggregate comments from Facebook and the web site. Trust us, 92 thousand people can start some really interesting conversations.

Live-scores are a must for all of us these days, and none of the sites miss out on this popular feature. Mobile portals are another must according to us, and Cricinfo has by-far the best mobile portal. Cricbuzz has a similar mobile portal while Espnstar has a wap-style, operator-tied mobile portal that provides wallpapers, videos etc. for paid download.

After having a good look at the what these sites provide, the scores brought Espnstar and Cricinfo neck-and-neck. Espnstar, however, just edged ahead because of its wider coverage of different sports. The most popular sports site in India, Cricinfo is a close second. The site is impressive and addictive, and is playing its part in keeping India hooked to its favourite sport. **d**

TO BE CONTINUED....

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2011 Kurukshetra The Battle of Brains

Feb 2 - 5

AN INTERNATIONAL TECHNO MANAGEMENT FEST

Kurukshetra, the 4-day techno-management fest of College of Engineering, Guindy, is back for its fifth edition. One of the most successful fests in the nation, Kurukshetra holds the distinction of being the first student organised event in the nation to have the prestigious UNESCO patronage and attracts participation of more than 15000 people from over 70 countries.

The fest's wide repertoire of events has played no small role in ensuring its success. The series of events lined up for Robotics this year has been formulated to bring out the best from the participants. 'Designer's Quest' will test the creative skills of the student. The challenge here is to let the design ideas flow with a minimum amount of constraining requirements. 'Konstructor' takes inspiration from the contemporary environmental disaster - the BP Oil Spill incident. 'Khimera' attempts to bridge the gap between industry and colleges by doling out critical problems from the industrial perspective to the students. 'Pandemonium', modelled on a hostage recovery scenario calls for autonomous bots to trace the shortest path to a location.

Apart from robotics, Kurukshetra also offers a host of other events. The electro-warriors event is a event specially for students of electrical and electronics engineers. It tests the cognitive abilities of the students and their knowledge of basic circuits. Math modelling is another highlight that calls for applying mathematics to everyday life and engineering and draws a huge crowd every year.

The coding events at Kurukshetra, are a league of their own with their fabulous cash prizes, exciting internship offers and of course mind numbing problems. Some

Kurukshetra holds the distinction of being the first student organised event in the nation to have the prestigious UNESCO patronage and attracts participation of more than 15000 people from over 70 countries



of the onsite events include 'K++', the open-source software development contest, Debugging contest and 'Heptathlon'. And the online event 'Athena' witness's participation from several nations. On a lighter vein, the online treasure hunt, 'Riddles of the Sphinx' offers loads of fun and the chance to bring out the inner 'Indiana Jones' of any participant.

If these events require registration and travel down to the lush green campus of the "College of Engineering, Guindy", XCEED takes Kurukshetra to the participants' hometowns. This year the XCEED will happen in Bangalore, Hyderabad, Tanjore and

And the fest is not only about competitions. The workshops are major crowd-pullers every year. This year the workshops include Rocketry, where the students will get a first-hand experience of fabricating and launching rockets, Gadgets, where participants will learn the basics of everyday gadgets, Hovercraft and the usual robotics workshops. And Krithi is an exclusive workshop for school students on ancient war machines.

Guest lectures and video conferences with stalwarts from various fields are an integral part of the fest. And this year, they promise to be as entertaining and educating as ever with a host of luminaries lined up including Mr. Richard Stallman (founder of the GNU project), Mr. Ajit Balakrishnan (founder of rediff.com)

The entrepreneurship summit, an annual feature at Kurukshetra is aimed at fostering the spirit of entrepreneurship. It provides an opportunity for wannabe entrepreneurs to interact with people who have been there, done it-the whos who of India Inc and learn about the travails and challenges of being an entrepreneur.

In a nutshell Kurukshetra 2011 is all about learning while having fun at the same time.



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We're just waiting for someone to step up and become the first Zuckerberg or Gates from India

Nash David

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Indians are a talented bunch when it comes to technology and cricket. So we're told by the world. We're the *numero uno* IT service provider to the globe, according to all those rather large financial reports that are oh so boring to read. What exactly are we doing with all that "potential" the world is lauding us for? Americans and Europeans are traversing the globe, transacting online and spending their money on business and leisure. Indians are too, but we're not a culture of backpacking and unwinding by circumnavigating the globe on leisure trips. We're hard workers, and damn proud of it. However, there just comes a time when someone has to sit up and say, "Show me the money!" By the way things are, we'd have to wait to see that happen.

WHERE ARE THE BILLIONAIRES?

Warring brothers and the odd steel tycoon aside, this one's a very valid question, as far as we're concerned. The very basis of this article, in fact. Whilst our youth are busy clicking Like on Facebook, someone in the West is hard at work dreaming of what's the next thing you'll Like. Mark Zuckerberg is 26, and worth 6.9 billion dollars. How did he get there? By choosing not to code like a monkey, but code with a vision, that's how. Creativity and innovation is the name of the billionaire game, and we're sorely lacking thus far in that department. We've got some of the best coders in the world. So where are our Zuckerbergs? Are you brave enough to be that person? If you are, then read on. If not, then you definitely need to. You'll be surprised at how fortunes have been made globally.

SHIFTING TIDES

The West has been through its phase of ups and downs financially. From crazy booms, short-lived plateaus and wild drops, is it any surprise that India and China are the largest targets that corporate bigwigs are setting their sights on? We are after all, growing economies. The advantage we have over China is a more open and level playing field, and being a democracy helps a fair bit too. Like Tendulkar, we're getting better as our democracy grows older. More and more Indians are being trusted with running corporate businesses on a global scale, and Indian companies are buying out, taking over and partnering with some rather large names in the global space.

"SO?"

Good question. Although it means that you're probably going to get higher

paying jobs, and have an increased opportunity to study and work abroad, there's pretty much nothing else we see in our futures. Now we may not know much about most other fields, but after a decade of involvement in the Indian technology industry, the one thing we can say is that India's time has come to show the world what we can really do.

It's innovation and entrepreneurship that we're placing our bets on for the near future. We need a Google, Apple or Microsoft to originate in India. Even a Facebook would do.

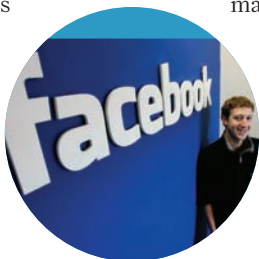
It's this thought that had us thinking for the past few months. "What's the next big idea that can create a Mark Zuckerberg?" we pondered. However, if you're expecting a nicely drawn up business plan, a non-patented idea and a clear-cut road map to becoming a billionaire all rolled into this article, you're in for a rather un-satisfying read. Seriously, if we knew what the big idea was, we'd be doing it ourselves, right?

"BAH! HUMBUG"

You're entitled to say that; but we did figure that, while we may not know what the next big idea is, just yet. We can still help you get started. We're hoping that we can help in some small way, and that you'll remember us if you ever become a billionaire – we'll accept cash, cheque, and even PayPal!

OK. Seriously now. We figured there have to be at least a few thousand potential billionaires amongst the lakhs of you reading this

magazine. You just don't know it yet. All you really need is the right idea, a platform to launch yourself, and a deeper understanding of what's needed. Easier said than done, we know, but we figured why not give it a shot?



ON YOUR MARK

Before you get started on your road to success, it's important to understand a few things. For one, we sincerely

believe that the Next Best Thing™ will be something made by Indians, for Indians. The trend these days is to only bother about the global market, promptly ignoring our own huge market.



SCROOGE MCDUCK

The perception that we Indians have of ourselves is that we're cheapskates looking for a free ride and bargains, and not really interested in paying for quality. We disagree. For one, we wouldn't exist ourselves if

Indians were cheap. Look at the mobile penetration we have – over 600 million. It's consistent through all sections of society, and is considered a necessity. While we may not believe in splurging on luxuries, we will spend any amount on things that we feel are useful or necessary. It's why brands like Karbonn and Micromax have grown so much in the past few years.

What would have happened if, instead of focussing on first grabbing market share in the value segment, these brands



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had directly launched as competitors in the smart phone market.? We use this analogy, because trying to make the next global Facebook is just as silly. However, making the first Hindi-Facebook for Indians would not be, perhaps.

THE GREAT WALL

If there's one thing the Chinese do well, it's mass produce. Chinese products are flooding the globe, and at throwaway prices. Yes the Indian market has its challenges, and skilled labour to manufacture hardware has been missing over the past decade, but that's rapidly changing, and each year more and more educated and skilled Indians are passing out from college, hoping for gainful employment. Perhaps the big idea would be to start replicating the Chinese model here in India. We do have the advantage of language here, and have more English speaking people than China.

Enough with the suppositions though, it's time to get down to the ideas we've been wanting to share with you. These are based of extensive research that we did of what works and what doesn't in foreign countries, and then debated upon internally about whether they would work in India.

SOPIMA

This is a Finnish company offering a one-stop solution for managing contracts. Contracts and India go together. Be it flyovers, retail spaces in cities, or infrastructure projects in rural areas, there is a gap that needs to be filled in here. We need a solution that would not only ensure transparency, but also reduce the paperwork. The challenge, however, would be the opposition by the influential machinery and lobbyists in our country. Nevertheless, there is hope as in the wake of the 2G saga, the government and even the judiciary in our country is now pushing for 'cleaner' processes. If our authorities had an option such as Sopima in our country, probably the Supreme Court would have made it mandatory to have transparent processes for awarding and monitoring progress on all government contracts. That's the foremost area where we find a lacuna. So we suggest you step in and give us a solution.



FONYOU

This Spanish business is similar to Google Voice. Essentially, fonYou follows a mobile virtual network operator (MNVO) business model. This means, although fonYou doesn't have spectrum allocation or any infrastructure in place, all it does is provides telecom service by accessing other telecom operators. Given the widespread corruption and the sensitivity of the telecommunications industry in India today, such a move would receive support from the industry. For now, Virgin Mobile is the only virtual operator to follow this model. Virgin uses Tata Teleservices' infrastructure to provide services. What makes virtual operators unique is the bouquet of value added services (VAS). fonYou, for example, lets you call and message other phone numbers and makes all of this possible without using a SIM card. Again, another opportunity for the Indian market.



NUITEQ

Tablets, touch and gestures are all over the place. No wonder the Government of India felt a \$35-tablet was the answer to India's student community. User interfaces are increasingly leaning towards touch and is evident in the rapid growth of touch-enabled smartphones, tablets and also touch-enabled computers. Given the perfect ecosystem, a software driven service would be the perfect business idea. Railway ticketing solutions, traffic status queries and even self help kiosks in hospitals, banks or educational aids involving touch would find rapid adoption.

TRADE IN 60 SECONDS

The next innovative idea we spotted is one that lets any user set up an online store in 60 seconds. New York-based tinypay.me doesn't require you to have any account. All you need to do is mention the product you want to sell, your asking price. You want also share any proceeds of your sale with charity.

MOBILE ADVERTISING

Japan is probably the world's most tech-savvy nation. It enjoys technological advancements of the highest degree. Way back in 2006, mobile broadcasting was launched with an encouraging 25 million subscribers. The average revenue per user (ARPU) is a quantity that is used to understand the business prospects of a telecom market. This is the money a telecom subscriber spends on service. In India, the ARPU stands at Rs. 144 compared to approximately Rs. 2600 (4800 JPN) in Japan. Considering the fact that India has the second highest number of mobile phone connections in the world while Japan stands at number 7, ventures in the mobile space have a high probability of succeeding.

WIMAX UBIQUITY

We all wish we had access to networking. This time we're not talking about Facebook, but interconnectivity. We wish we had wireless hotspots in every nook and corner. Although concepts such as ubiquitous networking has been doing the rounds for quite sometime, there hasn't been any concrete development. India's dragging itself to 3G. LTE and 4G seems a distant dream. Consider countries such as Finland and Norway where citizens enjoy broadband speeds as a constitutional right. The fastest and easiest way our needs could be satiated would be a pan-India 'ubiquitous' wireless broadband network. Instead of a dongle that you insert into your laptop, wouldn't you appreciate a service where you could roam by using the strongest signal you receive, irrespective of the service provider? There needs to be an alliance between the GSM concept of handover and roaming partnerships, and the robustness and efficiency of a WiMAX backbone.



ONLINE EDUCATION

India is a rapidly growing market. People have begun considering career options other than the engineer and medical doctor stereotype. Consid-

ering people who want to make a switch into a new career path would want to better their skills. Increasingly institutions are moving to the online model for content delivery, and similarly we see a trend where certifications online would hold value.

MANUFACTURING

Although this is not exactly our stronghold, we do believe Indians need to invest and focus on manufacturing. The Government of India is supporting ventures in the field of electronics manufacturing and production by setting up a fund dedicated to the cause. The 'Electronic Product Development Fund' would have a corpus of Rs. 5000 crore. Analysts have estimated that the demand for electronics goods in India to touch \$125 billion and eventually \$400 billion by 2014 and 2020, respectively. So innovative gadgets manufactured in India would sell and make its developers rich.



GO GREEN


We've always been vocal advocates of the need to go green. However, we've never focussed on the financial implications of turning green. Jairam Ramesh is a household name these days. Whatever he says or does is directly or indirectly related to the environment. Several attempts have been made to gather momentum for global consensus on environmental matters. Earlier it was in Copenhagen and recently in Cancun. These recent developments point to the urgency and universal consensus on the matter suggests that financial boost will be a result of budget allocations toward clean energy sources such as wind and solar power. This also will be supported by rural electrification programs. The Jawaharlal Nehru National Solar Mission aims to facilitate 20,000MW to the power hungry Indian population.



LEARN FROM EXAMPLE

In his famous commencement speech at Stanford university, Steve Jobs' recalled how he had enrolled for a course in calligraphy after dropping from college. Quoting from his speech, "I learned about Serif and San Serif typefaces, about varying the amount of space between different letter combinations, about

what makes great typography great. It was beautiful, historical, artistically subtle in a way that science can't capture, and I found it fascinating. None of this had even a hope of any practical application in my life. But ten years later, when we were designing the first Macintosh computer, it all came back to me. And we designed it all into the Mac. It was the first computer with beautiful typography. If I had never dropped in on that single course in college, the "Mac" would have never had multiple typefaces or proportionally spaced fonts. And since Windows just copied the Mac, it's likely that no personal computer would have them. If I had never dropped out, I would have never dropped in on that calligraphy class, and personal computers might not have the wonderful typography that they do. Of course it was impossible

to connect the dots looking forward when I was in college. But it was very, very clear looking backwards 10 years later." What we're trying to illustrate from that quote is that you need to be prepared to take chances, to use your life skills, and not just book skills, and there's no reason why you cannot be the next Indian billionaire. All it really takes is a great idea, the will to follow through, hard work and a little exposure. We've tried to help you with the first bit, and hope you'll have a light bulb moment. We will also do our best to help those in the last stage, and share your achievements and potential with the world. Write in to us at editor@thinkdigit.com if you have good ideas, and we'll offer all our support to the ones that seem feasible, in an attempt to get you on your way to the big bucks. 


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The very best of...

Everyone likes creating lists. Be it your top 50 movies of all time, top 20 books or even 100 all time greatest songs ever! Lists are fun! So we thought, well, why not come up with our own geeky best-of lists. In this cover feature we bring you the very best for everything. There's 25 best software from the open source world, the top 25 developer tools and even the top 25 most useful web apps. The most fun lists however have got to be the top 50 Windows apps list and the 25 games to play before you die list. At no point in Digit ever before, was there so much drama in office. We've all been playing games, and using Windows software ever since we can remember. As always to avoid a bias, we put the contenders up to vote. Big mistake, because there began the epic battles. People were coming up with obscure games like Metal Fatigue, Recoil and FutureCop as contenders and trying to convince other team members to vote up or vote down particular software. Full on politics and lobbying of the kind that Nira Radia and co. would be proud of. But eventually what came out was a reasonably accurate and rationale based listing for each category. Of course, you may not agree with our point of view, which is a good thing! We're getting kind of lonely and would love to hear from you. Let the differences in opinion pour in! We'd love to argue with you all day.

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Top 10 Mac software

The apple of our eyes

Rossi Fernandes
rossi.fernandes@tinkdigit.com

10 Things

Task management is an important task by itself. With apps being developed for everything from Windows to Linux to even mobile platforms, Things is one app that you cannot miss if you have a 100 things to do.



9 SuperDuper!

System backups are simple on Windows PCs, but when it comes to taking backups of a fully working Mac OS X installation, SuperDuper! can get the job done. It's not free, but the \$27.95 is totally worth the peace of mind.



3 Transmission

Even Mac OS X users love to download. One of the few BitTorrent clients to be made for the Mac OS X has been Transmission. It's popular on Linux, but its popularity has spread to Mac OS X and also to other devices especially NAS and download boxes.

6 Firefox

Firefox's fire has spread to the Mac OS X. A lot of users prefer to use Firefox as their primary browser over Safari. Extension support means there are endless possibilities. A must-try if you haven't used it yet.



8 VLC

VLC player has been around for ages now, and it appears it's still the best all-in-one media player for the Mac platform. It supports almost all the formats, can be used for transcoding and even for streaming media.



7 The Unarchiver

The Unarchiver is the OS X alternative to 7zip and a replacement for the somewhat handicapped Archive Utility on the platform. The Unarchiver supports compressed formats to the older ZIP and LHA formats, to the latest 7zip formats.



2 Quicksilver

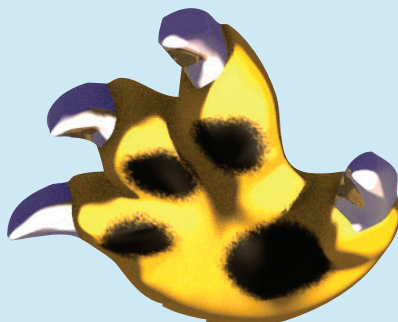
This one is a must-have for Mac keyboard warriors. Quicksilver is an app that allows users to quickly complete tasks without having to click through several menus and windows. It can also be used to quickly search through important locations. Plugins only make this app more powerful. Similar software for other platforms were influenced by Quicksilver's approach.

4 Handbrake

One of the easy-to-use media transcoder out there. It's specially designed to quickly convert your videos into H.264 content. It's highly multithreaded for performance too.

5 Growl

Growl is a desktop notification application that shows alerts and notifications for events to do with applications on your system. For example, you'll receive a popup when a download is completed or when you connect a flash drive to your PC. The great thing is that it's highly customizable and has supports a wide range of software.

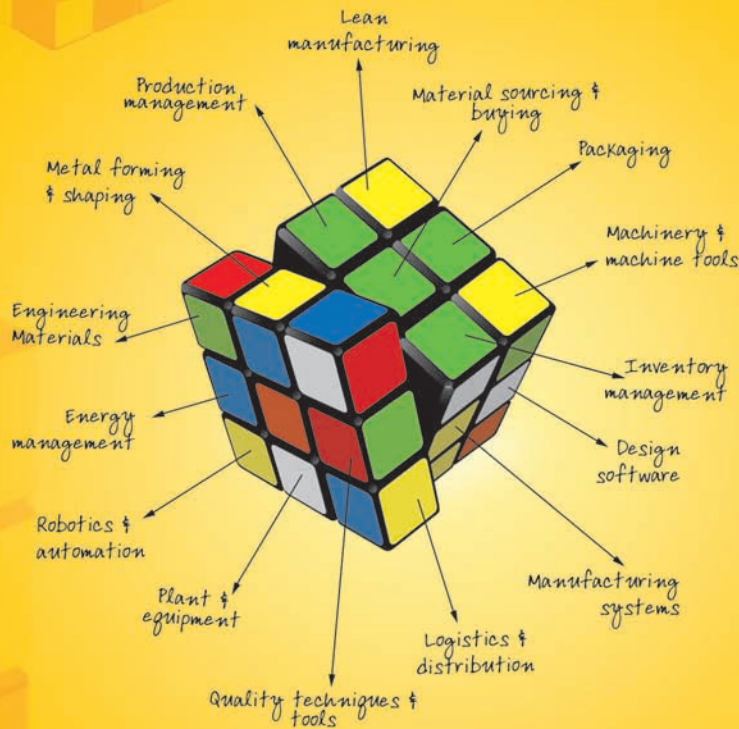


1 Adium

Adium has support for pretty much every instant messenger protocol out there - Google Talk to Twitter to Facebook chat to even IRC. Presentation is excellent. It might be just an instant messenger, but it's the mother of all instant messengers and it just happens to be on the Mac. Even the meanest of Apple critics have a soft spot for this cute little messenger.



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Top 50 Windows software

Software you cannot do without

Siddharth Parwatay
siddharth.parwatay@thinkdigit.com

50 Media Monkey

Media Monkey sneaks into our top 50 mainly for its nostalgia value. A solid music player nonetheless, it is more recognised for its sorting ability. If you've got one of those large all in one dump folders and want to organise your collection, MediaMonkey is the software of choice. The JukeBox and Auto-DJ features are fun for playing music without much supervision.



49 Digsby

Digsby integrates Instant messaging, email, and social networking into one neat bundle. The software of late, seems to have the potential of becoming your one stop communication dashboard. It's little irritating to integrate into Facebook with all its 'Allow' requests and autoposting updates, still, deserves to be in the top 50.



48 Lightroom

Lightroom can be thought of as a stripped down version of Photoshop. Many users prefer the over other photo management and editing tools. It helps you in organising your photographs and do post



processing work like adjusting exposures, tonal adjustments etc.

It also allows you to showcase your work in the form of slide shows, web galleries as well as on popular photo sharing sites.

47 Teamviewer

Team Viewer nudged out the other remote desktop utility Logmein out of our list by a small margin. With this software you can log into your or anyone else's PC from a different location. Effectively controlling it as if you were right there in front of it. A great tool for troubleshooting or keeping track of what's going on with your PC while on the move.



46 Filezilla

When it comes to FTP clients, only a handful of names can be thrown around in the same breath as Filezilla. A free open source tool, Filezilla makes for the easiest way to upload and download to and from your hosted website. The interface is very easy to use.



45 Norton Ghost

Backup and recovery software seem to have faded in importance lately. Norton Ghost is the only one of its kind that made it to our list, based on scores. Back when we used to use it frequently Ghost was a robust software that would take system image backups and an instant restore point, complete with settings and preferences, should your system become unstable.



44 Fences

Fences was a recent discovery and so is fresh on all of our minds. The only desktop customisation tool to feature on this list, it neatly sorts icons on your desktop into demarcated sections, which have a nice transparent background colour.



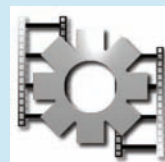
43 Yahoo!

In a world ruled by Gmail and Facebook web based chat and multi-protocol messengers, not many people may use Yahoo messenger. Yet a few years ago Yahoo! Messenger was perhaps the only form of instant communication between users. This one ranks 43 for its usability and nostalgic value



42 VirtualDUB

A tiny application that with the right codecs can transcode videos from one format to another. It includes a fair bit of editing features too. Pretty powerful for its size and features plugin support. Hence the well deserved place on this list.



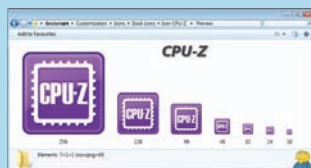
41 CD Burner XP

While Nero burning Rom and in fact the entire Nero Suite features somewhere in the top 10s, this little software is perhaps the best free burning software out there. (P.S. before shooting of hate mails, please read the how we tested box). It has all the features you would need from a CD/DVD burning tool – verification, ISO support and more.



40 CPU-Z

Ever wonder what the latency of your memory is? Or simpler still, what chipset your motherboard belongs to? If you didn't wonder, then you probably already have this software. It's the one stop shop for extracting any and all sorts of system details at a glance.



39 Process Explorer

We've been using this little nugget from Microsoft for ages. The application makes tracking down processes so much easier than Windows Task Manager. It displays all information relating to a process in a neat tree structure with application icons.

38 TeraCopy

TeraCopy is a file copy utility that goes beyond the regular windows copy-paste dialog box. It works a little faster and has features like pausing and resuming copying tasks.



37 Wordweb
We're all of course fans of the written word, and when it comes to this subject, no other software is an English Nerd's friend like Wordweb. It's a instant dictionary and thesaurus. Simply hit [CTRL]+[ALT]+[W] after selecting a word from any app and it'll give you meanings, alternative words and many other options. We would recommend it to anyone even remotely interested in writing better, increasing their vocabulary, and knowing correct pronunciations.



34 Recuva
From the creators of CCleaner comes a guardian angel software of sorts for those 'oops' moments when you delete a file and suddenly realise it was the wrong one. And we're not talking of the soft deletes that can be recovered from the recycle bin. Recuva is also good at recovering data from crashed hard drives.



30 Google Talk
Like Yahoo! Messenger of yesteryear, Google talk too seems to be clinging on for a place in today's world of website integrated and all in one messengers. Gtalk faces its biggest competition from the web UI integrated chat found in Gmail itself. Still for those who have the installed app, have rated it decently high amongst messengers



36 SpeedFan
Being gamers, overclockers, and in general performance enthusiasts, we need to keep an eye on our computer's vitals like our life depended on it. Since system temperature is the most important measure to keep track of, SpeedFan is an important utility. SpeedFan is a hardware monitoring software that monitors voltages, fan speeds and temperatures in your PC. It can access S.M.A.R.T. info and show hard disk temperatures too and even dynamically change fan speeds accordingly, thus reducing noise.



33 Thunderbird
Thunderbird is one of the biggest open-source success stories in the world today. A robust, cross-platform mail client such as Thunderbird has rarely been seen even in the commercial space. It's easy to set-up, customisable, and has a lovely UI. What more would you want?



29 foobar2000
If you like your music served in a clutter-free, distracting less manner, the ultra-lite player foobar2000 is your best bet. Beneath its Plain Jane looks lies a powerful media library organiser, Audio CD ripper, music format converter and support for numerous plug-ins developed on its free-for-all SDK by a dedicated community. All in all a neat little 3.1MB package.



28 VirtualBox
Anytime you want to run something from a different platform a quick way is to configure a virtual machine. While initially VMWare was an often opted for option, Sun Microsystem's VirtualBox seems to have overtaken the former virtualisation wizard. It's installed on almost all of our systems.



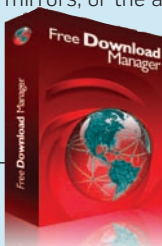
32 Picasa
Picasa is a photo editing cum photo management hybrid that is a favourite amongst most people - from your regular Joe to even techies. The application comes with some really nice and unique features which include, web gallery integration, face detection, and geo-tagging images. We like it for its simplicity.



27 Open / Libre Office
It may not be all visual splendour and productivity glory like MS Office, but its still is a commendable work-in-progress. While there is a long way to go before the project comes anywhere close to acceptable, it is still the best free option out there.



26 Free Download Manager
Extensions like DownThemAll have arrived, and besides those days of downloading large files via http on slow connections have long gone. Yet a lot of people still use download managers even today. Features such as finding mirrors, or the ability to make multiple connections to a server are much appreciated.



35 Avast
Generally we refrain from playing favourites with antivirus suites based on detection rates and performance. The reason is the ever-changing malware landscape which results in a constant battle wherein



AV makers are always trying to keep ahead of malicious coders. Avast over the years has proven itself in actual deployment scenarios and hence finds a place in our list based on the votes received.

31 Spybot Search and Destroy

There is enough awareness these days about malware and people do install an antivirus but when it comes to spyware, most are still clueless. Spybot is



a specialised product that aims at protecting users

privacy from malicious data gathering programs known as spyware. It even blocks adware programs along with cleaning usage tracks - an interesting feature if you use a machine that's shared by other users

25 Internet Explorer

Internet Explorer is regarded as the browser you use to download a better browser. This clearly reflects in the ranking it has received amongst the other browsers in the list. We still like to keep it around as a failsafe right? When a particularly prickly website refuses to open in Chrome, who do you turn to - good old (or bad old) Internet Explorer.



24 Windows Media Player

Windows Media Player may not be the first option of media playback for most Digit readers, but after clean install when you want to play any file this is the best and perhaps only player available. Besides, the latest versions are not as bad.



21 MS Paint

Some of you might be nodding your head right now while some may be more than a little surprised. Why Paint? But the point is that this innocuous little software has got us out of so many jams every now and then. Besides, wasn't it and isn't it still fun to muck around on a blank canvas for fun?



17 Adobe Reader

Despite Foxit scoring so high in this list, there's no escaping Adobe Reader it seems. No compatibility issues was the most cited reason why people still prefer Adobe Reader. Throw any PDF at it and it will open, was the contention.



12 Foxit Reader

Foxit can open PDFs in a jiffy, search PDFs in entire folders, allows tabbed file access, and minor annotation features. Phew. What's not to like? Well there are some niggles too – version after version, Foxit is inching its way towards bloatware. At 12 we can easily say it's one of the most appreciated software.

FOXIT
READER

23 AVG

Back when AVG first started spreading through word of mouth, it was perhaps the only free line of defence anyone against viruses anyone had heard of. No wonder then that it showed up on our list at such a high ranking. The anti-virus suite is simple to use, and what's great about it is that the basic version, which supports all updates and latest virus definitions is free to use.



20 Audacity

Audacity is, from our experience, the most appreciated free audio editor around. The software features a clean interface, multi-track editing, a robust set of effects, wide file support and even plugins all in a 2.13 MB package. There's very little it can't do.



16 K-Lite Mega Codec Pack

Here we're considering the codecs as well as Media Player Classic that comes bundled in the package. Some might say it's a little bloated. Yet the best part about it that once you install the pack, there will seldom be a time when a media file won't work.



11 Adobe Creative Suite

Adobe Creative Suite is a collection of apps equipped to tackle every task from photo editing to building websites to Flash and even cross compatibility between applications.



22 Windows Movie Maker

Sure you have movie editors like Premiere Pro and the like, but can everyone use them? For newbies, Windows Movie Maker seems to provide the best combination between features and usability. If you don't want to compete with the likes of Steven Spielberg and just want to make nice looking home videos that don't require a hell of a lot of hardcore editing, Movie Maker will suffice.



19 Notepad ++

Don't be fooled by the nondescript name. Apart from being a powerful source code editing tool, Notepad++ is also a Notepad enhancement. Anyone getting their hands dirty with code appreciates the value of this little tool. It seemingly supports just about any language written, and has awesome features such as line numbering, syntax highlighting, syntax folding, powerful search and colour coded printing.



15 Daemon Tools

Daemon tools is one of the best ISO mounting and creation tools out there. With Daemon tools you can compress, split images while also managing your countless images. It associates with image files for quick access and has a system tray menu to help ease the process.



18 Skype

Perhaps the world's most popular VoIP application, it has found many takers across continents. Skype does a good job at reducing international calling costs for people. Even the conference call feature has been well accepted.



14 7-Zip

7-Zip has been one of our essential software on the DVD for quite some time now and many consider it to be a superior compression and achieving program.



13 WinRAR

The good old giant of the compression world still rules the roost. Perhaps people are still habituated or many like the .rar format that WinRAR can natively compress and archive in.



10 CCleaner

Finally a system maintenance tool. And CCleaner is one of the best. Be it tweaking registry, optimising start up for quicker booting, or simply removing temporary files en masse, there's nothing as user-friendly as CCleaner.



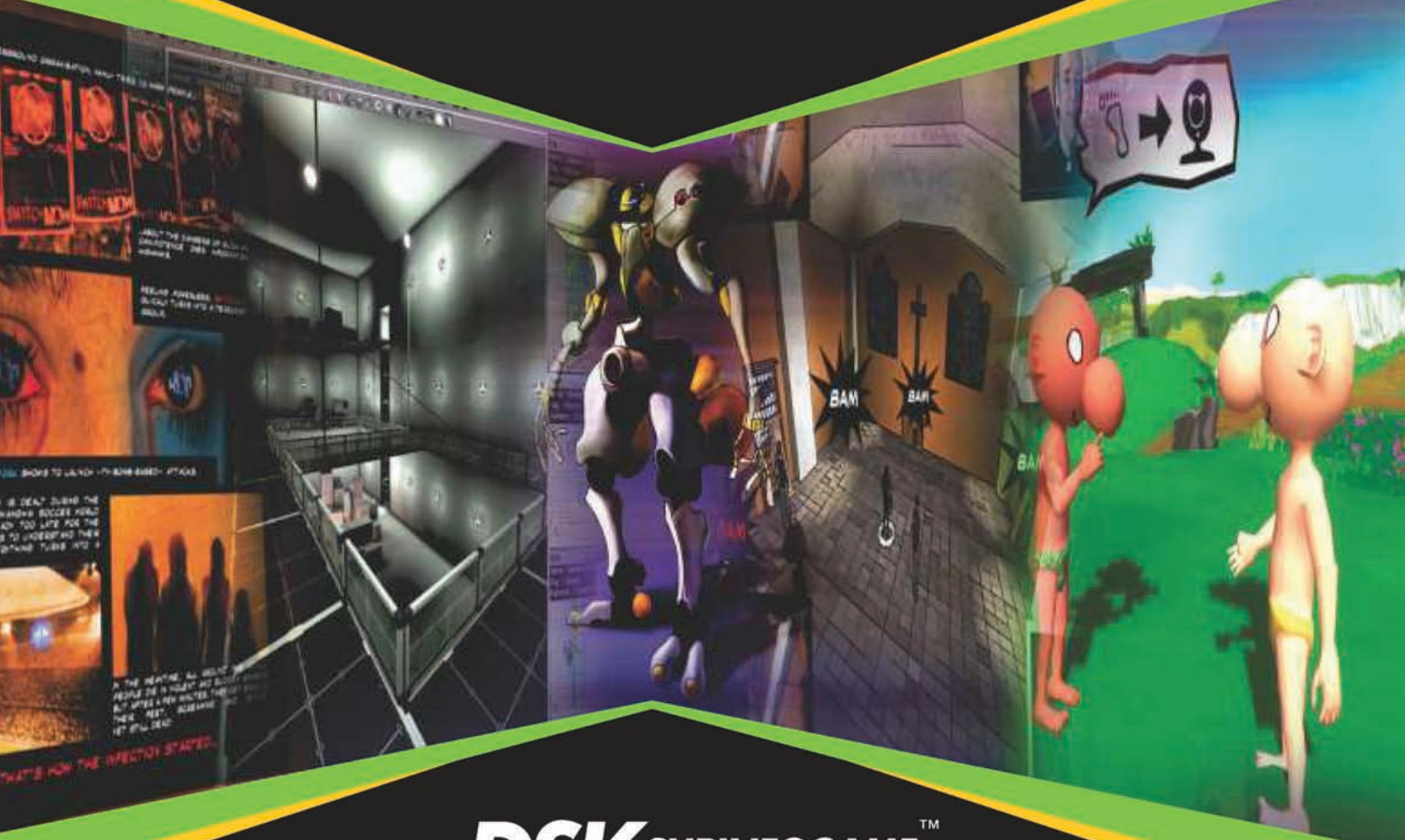
9 Nero Suite

Burning DVDs at one point used to be synonymous with the aptly named Nero. Although most people only use the Nero Burning Rom component, the Suite is feature rich. Only now people have started looking beyond Nero for their DVD writing needs.



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7 Opera Opera seems to be doing something right if it repeatedly outperforms other browsers in most tests including the one we conducted recently on thinkdigit.com. With many of the features of other browsers being built in, it offers a stable browsing environment. Definitely a browser of choice for most of the Team Digit members



8 VLC Despite media players such as KMPlayer and Media Player Classic, VLC still remains the last line of defence against a stubbornly unplayable video file. If not very factual, this still remains the perception amongst most users. Most people still have VLC on their systems, even if not as the default player, it's still there, which is why the high rating on this listing.



6 Firefox Firefox is again one of the most successful opensource projects of all time – built by geeks and for geeks. The browser was at one time the most customisable, secure and fast browser. Hence the loyal fan following even today. It's slowly losing ground to other browsers such as Google Chrome and Opera.



5 Winamp Winamp is primarily well known as a music player than a full fledged media player. The look and feel, minute features like auto-tagging with accuracy, pluggins, visualisation, sorting, shortcuts, and tons of other things make this a favourite of a lot of people. Flaws? Sure, it's heavy on ram usage, but there are workarounds.



4 uTorrent Just 314.8 kB ? "OMG" is how most users react when they first encounter uTorrent. This small client is easy on resources, has a great looking interface and awesome features. Feature set even includes a Web UI

2 Google Chrome Google's philosophy - that the browser is going to be our gateway to personal computing in the future - seems to be directly reflected in this ranking. After a productivity suite the first category of software to get featured was a browser and what a co-incidence that it's Google Chrome. Chrome has come a long way from the buggy, crash happy little infuriating !#%^& it used to be. Now with extension support, the newly launched app store (which we're still skeptical is just a jazzed up speed dial) and more stable releases, it seems to be the favourite browser overall.

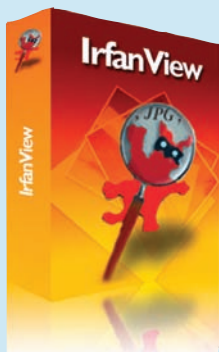


MS Office Suite 2010

Let's face it, this one thing where Microsoft really knows what it's doing. Whether it's the simplicity of Word or the complex pivot tables, look-ups, and macros you can run in Excel or even the the impressive fluidity of PowerPoint, we all seem to love this productivity tool. Also, it's not really a surprise that a productivity suite is at the top of this countdown right? After all you use a PC most often for productivity. The office suite figured amongst the top three for each of the Digit team members without exception.



3 Irfan View Irfan View has been and maybe will remain the primary tool for all of us when it comes to batch processing, editing, and resizing images.



How we rated

The ranking here might seem outright unfair to some (read:fanboys) but even excluding that annoying group many of you must be drawing deep breaths to launch off on a tirade right? What happened to great software like Portable Apps, Handbrake, Miranda, Bumptop and so many more?; you might ask. Let us first explain how we arrived at this list. Each Digit team member was asked to rank from 1 to n, an exhaustive list of software that contained close to a hundred of the best software, spanning categories such as system tools, communication, multimedia, UI enhancement, productivity etc. Here reviewers were asked to give a composite rating after taking into account factors such as usefulness, usage, cool factor, and general affinity. Once the ratings were done a weighted average was taken to come to a result. As it turns out, although everyone in the team who voted agreed that they software that failed to make the top 50 are indeed great programs, but when comparing them to other day-to-day sort of applications, they just dropped down the pecking order. Even in such a geeky team there were some who hadn't had the occasion to try gems like "Everything", "TheSage", "EasyBCD" and many more. So stay tuned for our "top Windows software you've never heard of but must have" list sometime soon. And keep the hate mail coming.



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25 Games To Play Before You Die

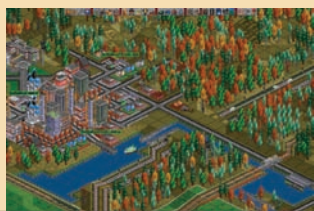
A roundup of the best...

Badri Narayan
readersletters@thinkdigit.com

25 Transport Tycoon

Years: 1994-1996

This DOS-based series lets you imagine yourself as a shrewd businessman with a fleet of transport vehicles and a willingness to outsmart the opposition at all costs. A huge game world, varied terrain, and infinite replayability are its biggest strengths.



21 Half-Life

Years: 1998-2008

Half-Life changed people's expectations of the FPS genre. It helped bring about the FPS domination still continues. HL2 was an extremely polished product with a few innovations of its own. This is one of the most recognized franchises, Halo notwithstanding.



17 Command & Conquer

Years: 1995-2010

The RTS world broadly comprises C&C and Warcraft. We've played all three WC games, but they're nowhere near the former. Any game that lets you blow up the White House and has exploding cows in it gets our vote.



13 Metal Gear

Years: 1987-2010

Fantastic production quality, a "cinematic" storyline, and challenging stealth gameplay make for a formidable combination, never mind the weird choice of names.



24 Worms

Years: 1995-2010

When one gamer says to another, "I've got worms", he isn't talking about gastrointestinal disorders. This turn-based squad combat tactical series has delighted fans for years now, and will hopefully continue to do so.



20 System Shock

Years: 1994-1999

Created by the hugely talented folks at Looking Glass (creators of the Thief series), this game practically invented the FPS/RPG hybrid on the PC. Eerily atmospheric and genuinely scary, this series inspired games such as Deus Ex and BioShock.



16 Commandos

Years: 1998-2010

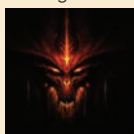
Granted, Commandos' difficulty could be frustrating at times, but the satisfaction of a hard-earned victory after hours of patience was unmatched. We look forward to the day when this franchise will be resurrected in its original avatar. Until then, clones like Pathway to Glory will have to suffice.



12 Diablo

Years: 1997-2003

Diablo is a strange entrant into this list. Hack-and-slash RPGs were around long before it appeared. The gameplay was as mindless as could be. Yet, it brought all aspects of this genre together and polished them to perfection. The result – an affair that launched a hundred clones.



23 The Elder Scrolls

Years: 1994-2007

The Elder Scrolls world didn't make an impression with its first or second iteration, but Morrowind changed the game with its huge world and massive storyline. Other fantasy RPG franchises are similarly epic in scope, but lack the polish that TES displays.



19 StarCraft

Years: 1998-2010

This game needs no introduction. Suffice it to say that this slot was a toss-up between StarCraft and Warcraft, but the former won because of its better single-player campaign and engrossing storyline. Another contender for this position was Warhammer 40,000: Dawn of War, but it lost out to the former's production quality.



15 Grand Theft Auto

Years: 1997-2009

The GTA franchise is a rare gem that has consistently upped the ante with each release, wherein the deviants at Rockstar come up with a more awesome adventure to shake you up. Praising it any more would sound trite, so all we'll say is, "More hot coffee please!". Greets also go out to Mafia. Thug life!



22 Final Fantasy

Years: 1987-2010

The first name that comes to mind when you say "Jap RPG" is Final Fantasy. Longest-running, record-breaking, prolific, and cultural phenomenon are some of the many adjectives used to describe this venerable console franchise, which has truly defined the RPG genre.



18 Burnout

Years: 2001-2009

Burnout epitomizes arcade racing frenzy, perfected in Burnout Revenge. For the joy it provides in crashing opponents' cars any number of ways, this series pips the more popular Need for Speed to the post.



14 Max Payne

Years: 2001-2008

This is the action marque that first introduced the concept of slow-motion action, and gamers were suitably blown away. The addition of a hackneyed love story didn't hurt either, because we're suckers for those things.



11 DOOM

Years: 1993-2010

There are all other FPS games, and then there is DOOM. It was the game that invented multiplayer deathmatch. The first "2.5D" game, which ushered in the shift to 3D. Its graphics were a generational leap forward.



10 Prince of Persia Years: 1989-2010

In terms of artistic excellence, it stood head and shoulders above all other platformers in its time, and its simplistic elegance can still hold its own against today's games. POP is gaming filtered down to its essence: kill the bad guy, save the world, get the girl.



7 Death Rally Year: 1996

Death Rally is the only one of its kind: a racing game with soul. It treats racing not as mere competition, but a way of life. Of particular note are the quotes that appear at the bottom of the screen: "All bitter regrets are in the past; blurred sweet streetlights speeding past, fast". Cheesy? Yes. Suiting the game's style? Hell, yes.



5 Grim Fandango Year: 1998

Classical adventure gaming is all about telling a story, and no game tells a story better than Grim Fandango. Be it the graphics that utilised Mexican and noir themes, this title stands out as one of the finest productions in the history of gaming.



2 Super Mario Bros. Years: 1985-2010

The fun, accessible, and addictive gameplay of the SMB series has earned it this rank. Truly the biggest franchise of past, present, and future, this series has literally crushed mascots of other platforms such as SEGA's Sonic the Hedgehog and PlayStation's Crash Bandicoot. The only reason this isn't #1 is because of a tiny, insignificant little thing called... (see #1)



9 Call of Duty Years: 2003-2010

With each release, the COD franchise has gone from strength to strength, and currently holds the record of the largest-selling FPS. The combination of arcade action with realistic weapons, together with tightly-scripted levels that provide a cinematic feel to the action has been maintained across its iterations.



6 Fallout Years: 1997-2010

When it comes to post-apocalyptic sci-fi, nothing can touch Fallout with a sharpened spear. Its alternate-reality mix of 1950s vacuum tube technology with high-powered Gauss Rifles has a special appeal all its own. Another unforgettable aspect is its liberal dose of dark humour. Regardless of how hopeless the future of the world might seem, there's always someone around to make a wisecrack about it.



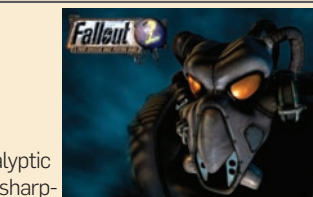
4 Road Rash Years: 1991-2003

Road Rash is the most fun motorcycle racing game ever made, and practically everyone who owns a PC has enjoyed it, including 60-year-old grandmas — and we say this from personal experience. An elderly lady once wanted to play Road Rash at the SKOAR! 2008 expo because her grandkids would not let her play at home.



8 Aliens Versus Predator Years: 1993-2010

AVP is actually three games in one — an excellent horror FPS (Marine), a hi-tech stealth FPS (Predator), and the Alien campaign that has no parallel in any other franchise. You can't beat playing from the viewpoint of the two coolest villains in Sci-Fi lore.



3 God of War Years: 2005-2010

The GOW franchise has continually churned out one superlative experience after another. Each new title pushes the boundaries of what the game's console is capable of, and each release continues to make the act of mass destruction extremely fun. The GOW series continues to symbolize the epitome of polish and smoothness in gameplay, and there seems to be no stopping this juggernaut.



Disclaimer:

This lineup isn't called anything predictable like "25 Best Games Ever" because we've assumed that better games will continue to be made in the future. That is, unless you believe we're all going to die in December 2012. Like all "Best Of" lists, this is a highly subjective ranking that might not go down well with a section of the readership (read: rabid fanboys). Kindly excuse.

All the titles in this arrangement are primarily single-player experiences, since storytelling is key to making a great game. In cases where a franchise has produced many excellent titles, we've gone with including the entire series instead of individual games. Finally, this manifest tends to lean towards games published on PCs rather than consoles.



Carmageddon

Years: 1997-2000

Carmageddon is not about racing, but something else entirely — cutting loose. It's pure, unadulterated evil; a no-holds-barred, violent smashfest of the highest order that boasts true freedom to win the race by your preferred means: cross all checkpoints, wreck all other opponents, or kill all pedestrians.

If most games are about the triumph of good over evil, Carmageddon is the antithesis. In Carpoolcalypse Now!, the last level takes place in a nuclear reactor, and your objective is to hit the huge button that will destroy the reactor and cause the world's destruction. In a world where everyone tries to be politically correct, this comes as a breath of fresh air.

The final word on this game comes from a friend who says, "After I play, I make it a point to relax for 15 minutes before I go out, because I'm afraid I might drive the same way in the real world". Now that's immersion.



Top 25 Software for Developers

Gems in your toolkit

Kshitij Sobti
kshitij.sobti@thinkdigit.com

25 Flex SDK

This open source Flex SDK from Adobe makes it possible for developers to create applications for the Flash platform, for free. With the SDK, developers can create applications using an IDE rather than a design tool.



22 Cygwin

A Unix-like CLI environment on Windows! Cygwin implements Unix / POSIX system features using Windows system calls making it possible for Linux applications to compile and run on Windows.



21 Wireshark

A cross-platform tool that can tap into your network interface and spy on anyone. Just kidding! Wireshark can help you analyse your network traffic and debug networking applications or code.



20 Kompozer

A great web development IDE that is open source, free and extensible. It is cross-platform due to its Firefox heritage, and has a proper WYSIWYG interface that can compete with commercial applications.



16 Yasca / Sonar

All developers make mistakes, often to the expense of those using the software. Software like Yasca and Sonar make development easier by automatically pointing out common code vulnerabilities, performance issues, code-quality issues and lack of conformance to best practices.



14 Aptana

One of the best free open source IDE's available, Aptana shines despite the lack of a WYSIWYG interface. Aptana offers a number of plug-ins for developing everything from AIR applications to Nokia mobile widgets.



aptana

13 Dreamweaver

A commercial web development IDE by Adobe, Dreamweaver has powerful coding support and is quite extensible. It has support for many common CMSs, and is the first WYSIWYG editor to support HTML5.



24 Windows PowerShell

PowerShell is a powerful Windows console by Microsoft that has equivalent features to most Unix commands and features such as piping. It is a must have for any Windows developer.



23 Notepad++

For quick editing operations, a light quick-loading editor like Notepad++ can be much more convenient than a heavy IDE. Despite being a plain text editor, this handy application has a ton of useful features.



18 Sysinternals Suite

Nothing gives you as much information about your system than this extensive collection of tools. With applications such as ProcessExplorer, Autoruns, DiskView, these are the tools to use to really know what's going on in your system.



17 Mono

The open source community's answer to Microsoft .NET, this project aims to offer an .NET compatible tool set. This controversial project by Novell, finally makes .NET cross-platform.



19 Amaya

A browser-cum-web-IDE by the W3C themselves, this software serves as a test-bed for web standard features that aren't yet available in other browsers. It also serves as an excellent web development tool.



Firebug

15 Firebug

A must have tool for any web developer, Firebug comes as an Add-on for Firefox and gives you an in-depth peek inside not only web pages, but the Firefox browser itself.



12 Titanium

Creating cross-platform native applications is easy with this SDK which allows one to develop applications for Windows, Linux, Mac OS X, iOS, and Android using web development tools and languages such as HTML, CSS, Javascript, Ruby, Python and PHP.



11 .NET

This software development framework by Microsoft powers a majority of Windows applications available today. It is a must-know for anyone wishing to develop major applications for Windows today.





10 vi / Emacs
vi and Emacs are text editors that are highly favoured by hardcore programmers and hackers. Countless forum threads exist solely to debate which is better, but there is no consensus. Both are operated entirely using the keyboard with text commands that can greatly improve the speed with which you handle text and code once you get used to them.

7 jQuery
Possibly the most famous javascript library for developing web applications, jQuery packs a lot of features in just a few kB of code. jQuery makes it incredibly simple to work with HTML documents, and is even in use in non-HTML DOM environments. It has been espoused by major companies such as Microsoft, Google and Nokia.



4 LLVM
LLVM or Low Level Virtual Machine is a new compiler infrastructure, capable of compiling a number of languages. It is what is responsible for compiling from Flash to an iOS application in the iPhone packager as well. It is capable of optimising code at various instances, and can even work with GCC. It is part of Apple's development tools as well.



3 Git / TortoiseGit
Git is the version control system of choice for Linux kernel developers, and is in fact designed by Linus Torvalds himself. Git is now widely used with social coding sites such as Gitorius and Github both of which are free for open source projects. TortoiseGit allows one to manage Git repositories using a GUI.



9 Mercurial / TortoiseHg
Mercurial is a brilliant distributed version control system that is used for some big applications, such as Firefox. TortoiseHg provides a graphical interface for managing Mercurial repositories on Windows and Linux. Mercurial is open-source, cross-platform, easy to use, and efficient. It can be integrated into many other developer tools such as Eclipse to make development even easier.



6 Adobe AIR SDK
The Adobe AIR SDK puts to use the development talents of the web developer and enables them to create desktop applications for Windows, Linux, Mac OS X, Android and iPhone using web development languages and tools. Adobe AIR applications install on computers with the AIR runtime installed and can be written in Flash (ActionScript 3 and MXML) or even HTML, CSS and JavaScript (including HTML5).



8 Qt/QtCreator
Qt, now by Nokia, is an extensive cross-platform SDK that is behind the KDE desktop environment for Linux. It allows developers to create applications for Windows, Linux and Mac OS X while maintaining the platform's unique look with changes to their code. Qt is also the future development platform for Nokia devices. QtCreator is the official IDE for developing Qt applications that includes a GUI builder.



5 Eclipse
Eclipse is one of the most popular IDEs out there, and is capable for developing in a plethora of languages from C / C++, to COBOL, PHP and Ruby. It is free and open source, software and is constantly improving with each new version. It is highly extensible and serves as a base for a number of other IDEs such as Zend Studio, Flash Builder and Aptana.



2 GCC
The GNU Compiler collection is the default compiler used on Unix-like systems. It supports a wide number of programming languages, operating systems and architectures. Installing GCC is a prerequisite to compiling any Linux software from source and is probably what was used to compile all the software you have installed on your Linux system.



SQLite


It might seem like an odd entry for the top spot, but SQLite really is remarkable. It is possibly the most deployed open source software in the world! It is an embeddable SQL database that is used by a number of open source and proprietary software. It is used in popular applications such as iTunes, iOS, Acrobat Reader, Adobe AIR, Firefox, Android, Symbian and many more. Unlike most other open source software, SQLite is in the public domain, which means that it can be used for any purposes whatsoever, including in proprietary applications, for a charge without releasing the source code. The SQLite application and library are small and can be used with a number of programming languages to give your application a SQL database for storing structured data. The syntax of SQL is quite similar to MySQL and standard SQL syntax. For its use in millions of devices and applications we believe SQLite to be the number one software for developers.

Top 25 Web Apps

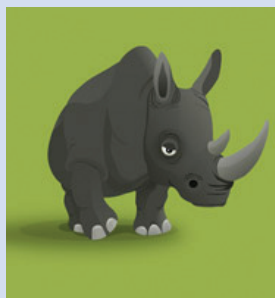
Get the best of the web

Siddharth Parwatay
siddharth.parwatay@thinkdigit.com

25 sync.in
Honestly, we haven't found a use for it yet, but it's just too cool to be ignored. In fact the original app EtherPad, was taken over by Google (perhaps for the same reason) before they open-sourced the code. It's realtime text collaboration at its magical best.



22 Zootool
What would happen if StumbleUpon had a baby with Evernote? This nice little webapp would be the outcome. With its bookmarklet, instead of just clipping interesting images, videos and documents from around the web for personal use, you get to share them, making it an upcoming social content discovery platform.



21 LovelyCharts
Loads of web apps out there allow you to create beautiful diagrams. After looking at LovelyCharts, Diagramo, Glify and others, we found LovelyCharts to be very robust in terms of charting experience as well as exporting options.



16 PDFescape
Speaking of PDFs, isn't it difficult to manipulate them even with desktop applications? Here's a web tool that allows you to fill in PDF forms and generally annotate and manipulate PDFs however you want – be it rearranging pages, typing text, adding links, and even erasing and highlighting. The app won a place in this list by a whisker compared to FillanyPDF – another similar web app that lets you even collect data via PDF forms.



15 www.imo.im
Web based messengers were perhaps the first web apps ever to exist. People used them to get around their office IT policy. There's a lot of 'em around, but imo.im in our opinion is the simplest, most easy to use and fairly reliable.



13 DropMocks
Sure you have Picasa and Flickr to create image galleries but what if you want to create a gallery instantaneously? DropMocks is the easiest way to create and share nice-looking image galleries online. All you need to do is drag your image files onto the DropMocks page, and the app will do the rest. Copy link to share your image gallery!


LinkBunch BETA

24 Linkbun.ch
Often we don't want to send someone just one link, but rather a bunch of links around a particular topic. Linkbun.ch allows you to group them all into a small URL and share over services like twitter that have a limitation on character usage. Linkbunch even opens the bunched links in multiple tabs with a single click.

19 torrent2exe
There's hardly anyone left on earth who doesn't know what torrents are. Still, wouldn't it be nice if you could package a torrent as an executable file that launches with its own inbuilt bit torrent client? This web app does just that. Simply share the file on your blog post (or wherever) and users can download your content in a hassle free manner



14 PDFmyUrl
Have URL, will covert! Can't get simpler than that. And the PDFs come out in good quality with minimal file size. 5,237,544 PDFs served at the time of writing this.



12 Keepvid
KeepVid is a web app that allows you to instantly download any video you're currently streaming. It supports sites such as Youtube, Google Video, Metacafe, Putfile and more. Simply paste the url in the web UI or use the bookmarklet.



23 netvibes
Netvibes is less of an app and more a startpage (as it was traditionally called). But it's a fantastic way to keep track of things that are important to you – whether it's topical news or your social networking stream – all in one place.



movavi online convert

18 online.movavi.com
Transcoding video can be a resource intensive task. With this app you get to transfer the load to the cloud. The app supports several input / output formats and even presets for popular mobile devices.



17 Prezi
When you think 'presentations', you think 'slides', right? Well here's an online presentation tool that's going to redefine how we give presentations. It uses a huge canvas and zooms on important content contextually. On a side note, you will most definitely also want to check out SlideRocket for adding regular spice to conventionality.

JotForm

11 JotForm
Need to create a feedback or survey form, but don't know web programming? Sure there's Google Docs Forms, or paid options like Wufoo and FormStack, but this one is just as powerful and easier to use with its drag and drop functionality. Simply make a form, embed anywhere and receive responses via email.

10 Bitlet.org
This is a cross platform Bit Torrent program that lets you enable your very own Bit Torrent client in the cloud. The Java based app can load torrent files from a URL or from a local drive. You can set the incoming port and upload limit. It even supports resuming as long as you save in the same location. You can also stream audio as MP3 or Ogg Vorbis format.

7 www.ge.tt
With ge.tt you can share files instantly with anyone. Simply upload the file and share the link. What's unique is that there's no size limit and people can start downloading your shared files while you're uploading from your end. If you choose to register, you get stats and analytics too.



9 Penzu
Penzu is an online personal diary app with special emphasis on privacy and security. The UI is like an old school writing pad or journal which really makes you want to pen down your thoughts at the end of a long tiring day.



6 grooveshark
Online music is the only category in which we have two webapps instead of featuring just one. Grooveshark is the best place on the web for playing music instantly. Sure, you can make playlists and blah, but if you need a song, and need it now, this is the app!

4 Screen Toaster
ScreenToaster is a free web based screen capture tool. Registration is not compulsory. All you need to do is visit the site and click Record. This one is a clear cut replacement of desktop applications such as CamStudio. The only trouble is the app suffers a lot of downtime.

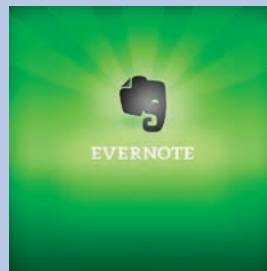


3 last.fm
Last.fm is by far the ultimate music discovery app out there. Apart from playing similar artists on call, this service has a social feel to it. Allowing you to connect with people with similar music tastes.

last.fm



8 Pixlr
No web apps countdown can be complete without a powerful image editing application. The web offers many choices - from basic ones like Fotoflexer, Lunapic, Picnik and Adobe Photoshop's online version Photoshop Express, to an advanced class of editors such as Pixlr, Aviary Phoenix, Splashup and Sumo Paint. After pushing at all of them till they broke we arrived at Pixlr. If you want to get some serious photo editing done online, Pixlr is the app that truly delivers.



5 Evernote
An online note taking cum clipboard application is something most people have come to need more than just want. The web app allows you to save / organise notes, pictures and reminders from anywhere on the web. iClippy and SpringPad were contenders, but EverNote nudged them out ever so slightly.

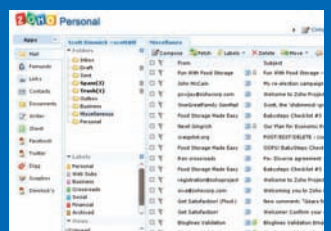
2 Dropbox
Without a doubt the best file syncing webapp out there. It's cross

platform and allows you to sync your files across multiple systems, be it Linux, Mac or Windows based. The best part is apart from syncing folders seamlessly it also keeps a copy of your files on the cloud.



Zoho Docs

Zoho is an online full-function office suite that lets you create and edit word documents, spreadsheets, and presentations amongst other things. But wait a minute, why not Google Docs? As you imagined it was a tough call between our numero-uno web app and the old favourite Google Docs. The reason we choose Zoho is because frankly we're tired of the minor irritants Google Docs keeps throwing up and we value its adherence to its desktop roots in terms of UI.



Top 25 Linux Applications

The best of the free world...

Kshitij Sobti
kshitij.sobti@thinkdigit.com

25 GnuCash

Financial management application tend to me on the expensive side, but this is one great open source and free replacement. GnuCash has full support for double-entry book-keeping and many great features.



22 Ardour

This Linux and Mac OSX appli-



cation is one of the best applications for editing audio. Is might be lesser known but offers significantly more features and has a more professional interface than Audacity.

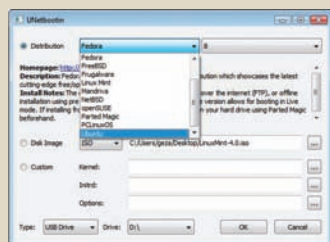
21 VirtualBox

Possibly one of the greatest (mostly) open source virtualization



applications available today. It is not as easy to use as VMWare Player, but has many more features and holds up well to

VMWare Workstation as well.



20 Unetbootin

This small little utility can make nearly any Linux distribution boot from your pendrive. It is the simplest way to create a live pendrive from a live CD or DVD iso file. It can also be used for frugal installs of OSs.

17 Koffice

OpenOffice.org might be the most popular, but it is not the only open source office suite for Linux. Koffice – soon to be Calligra Suite – is a great office suite for KDE that has a refreshing panel-based interface.



14 Google Chrome

Google Chrome, gives internet users for the first time, a browser that is focused entirely on the content, instead of user interface features, and makes browser crashes significantly less disruptive.



13 Boxee

This cross platform media center has powerful organization and media recognition features along with great integration of online services and extensive social features.



BOXEE

24 Scilab

For students who need to use Matlab for their project, here is a free and open source alternative, that works as well. It is less compatible with Matlab than FreeMat and GNU Octave but has more and better features.



19 Handbrake

Transcoding media files and ripping DVDs for your PMP or other mobile device is simple with Handbrake. It includes profiles for most popular devices including Apple TV, iPod, and Android.



16 Openshot

One of the greatest and easiest Linux video editors available. It offers non-linear multi-track editing with support for filters, effects, and transitions along with key-framed animation.

12 Banshee

With great music library management features and support for online music stores and services, Banshee is one of the best music management applications available for Linux.



23 Braserio

CD and DVD burning was never as simple as it is with this neat Linux application. In just a few clicks you can burn any kind of compilation Audio CDs, Vidro DVDs, and more.



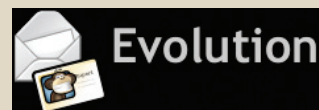
18 Ubuntu One

File synchronisation built right into an OS! Ubuntu One makes it easy to backup and sync files online and share them with others. While mostly for Ubuntu-based distros, it is a great easy to use software.



15 Evolution

With support for contacts, email, calender, to-do and more Evolution is the closest Microsoft Outlook replacement for Linux users, and does a great job of managing information and planning your work schedule.



11 VMWare Player

Using the same virtualization technology as the commercial VMWare Workstation, VMWare Player is a great virtualization solution that is free and easy to use. It is easier to use and often faster than VirtualBox.



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- ▶ High quality accessories



A lot can happen in 3 days. The Earth rotates thrice. The stock markets rise or fall. You can reach kanyakumari from jammu. And what DOES NOT happen in 3 days? Your **Zebmate 75** does not run out of charge !!!

Introducing for the first time in India, a Portable Media Player that breaks all boundaries. Gives upto 75 hours continuous playback, **Zebronic's Zebmate75 Unique**.

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- ▶ MP3/WMA/WAV
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2 GB 4 GB

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- ▶ Upto 20 hours** of playback
- ▶ 1" Multicolor display
- ▶ USB 2.0 connectivity
- ▶ 500/1000 songs (2/4GB)

Zebrate Cinema 3.0

4 GB

- ▶ Stunning 260K 3.0" TFT (400x260pixel)
- ▶ 4GB in-built memory
- ▶ Supported video file-avi, mov, divx, mpeg1
- ▶ mpeg2, mpeg4, rm, rmvb and xvid
- ▶ Supported audio file - MP3, WMA
- ▶ FM radio
- ▶ Easy to use controls
- ▶ In-built games, Photo viewer, e-book
- ▶ Approx 15hours** audio and 4hours** video continuous playback

Zebrate Cinema 4.3

8 GB

- ▶ Stunning 260K 4.3" Touchscreen(480x272pixel)
- ▶ 8GB in-built memory
- ▶ Supported video file - M2V, AVI, Mp4, MOV, QT, ASX, ASF, WMV, VIV, VIVO, RM, RMVB, Y4M, OGM, Mpeg, DAT, MOD, S3M, IT, MIDI, MP3, VPE, NSV, NSA, MPC, MKV, APE, APL, MAC, FLV, 3GP, VOB, MPG XM up to 720P (Subtitle support)
- ▶ Supported audio file - MP3, Wav, Wma, Ape, Flac, AAC, OGG, Ra, Midi, Amr, Rm, M4a
- ▶ FM radio
- ▶ Easy to use controls(Touch screen)
- ▶ Elegant design
- ▶ In-built games, Photo viewer, e-book
- ▶ Approx 13 hours** audio and 4 hours** video continuous playback
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10 Firefox Despite the new and shiny Google Chrome browser, Firefox remains one of the greatest browsers ever. While the browser has lagged behind Chrome and Opera of late, it has an enthusiastic new v4 coming that should restore its former glory.



7 Calibre If you love eBooks, Calibre is the best application to manage them for you. This brilliant application created by an India developer supports a number of unique features. Besides managing your eBook library, it can convert eBooks, sync to eBook reader devices, download news feeds and convert them to eBooks, and even set up a server to access your collection remotely.



9 Dropbox Dropbox is a great file synchronization application that works across platforms. It contends well with inconsistencies between the different platform, and manages to Just Work without requiring too much user input. It offers free storage up to 2GB and offers paid upgrades to storage as well.



6 VLC Nothing makes multimedia simple for Linux users than VLC. With this single application installed, you can play back nearly any multimedia format available. VLC has an extensive feature set, from playing YouTube videos to encoding and saving streaming files to an inbuilt media library.

4 Gnome-Do / Krunker ScreenToaster is a free web based screen capture tool. Registration is not compulsory. All you need to do is visit the site and click Record. This one is a clear cut replacement of desktop applications such as CamStudio. The only trouble is the app suffers a lot of downtime.



3 GIMP The GNU Image Manipulation Program; nearly everyone has heard of this brilliant image editing application that does its best against image editors such as Photoshop. While it isn't the simplest application to use, it more than makes up for it with its extensive features and scripting support. Recently it has taken heed of critics and is working towards a more Photoshop-like interface



tions, and matches in feature to even many commercial applications such as Adobe Photoshop / Lightroom. With features such as image fingerprinting, plug-in support, and exporting/ importing files on photo sharing services, and brilliant tagging, searching and editing support it is the best application of its kind.



8 Blender Blender is a popular professional 3D editor for all platforms. It is capable of producing high quality rendered content, and has been used to make films such as Elephants Dream, Big Buck Bunny, and Sintel. It even includes advanced video compositing and editing features and can be used to create games.



5 LibreOffice With OpenOffice.org in Oracle's hands, the community has now forked out with LibreOffice as the new office suite of choice for Linux. It builds on OpenOffice.org and already surpasses it with the inclusion of many community developed features and extensions. Keep a lookout for LibreOffice as most of the active OpenOffice developers are now part of LibreOffice.

2 digiKam If you've used KDE, you've probably heard of digiKam. It is possibly one of the best image management applications,

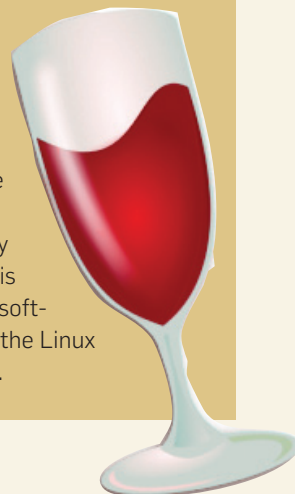


Wine

Windows remains till date, the most popular operating system, which ensures that more applications are developed for it than for other OSes, which ensures that it is the most popular operating system.

Wine attempts to break out of this chicken and egg cycle by making Linux capable of running Windows applications. Using Wine, Linux users can run even complicated applications such as Photoshop and Microsoft Office, and can play Windows games such as Half Life 2, and Starcraft II. Wine has seen significant improvements in compatibility and stability recently, and continues to be very actively developed.

Wine ensures that those coming to the world of Windows don't have to leave their favourite applications behind, giving them yet another reason to shift to a the free operating system. For these reasons and many others it is the best software for the Linux platform.



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Security Simplified

All new user interface that is clean, simple and easy to use.

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Web Security

Stops infection through compromised websites automatically.

Parental Control

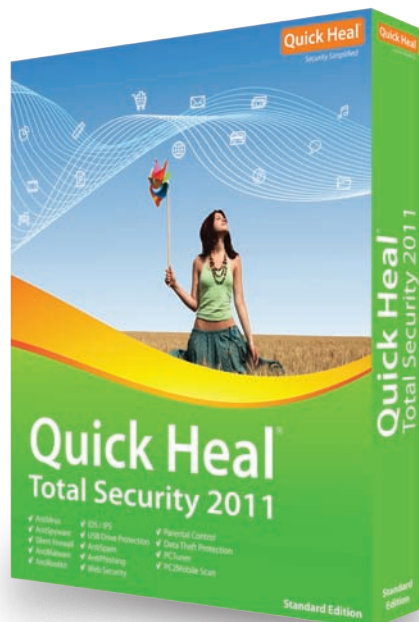
Parents can control the daily Internet usage of their kids. It also blocks website / website categories to keep kids away from unsafe content and Internet frauds.

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Optimize your PC for 100% performance.



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How sick is the WWW?

We're almost afraid to tell you to turn to that page, but you have been warned. Hide the kids and the elderly!

Motorola 4G in 2011

A Motorola smart phone that supports the 4G LTE network will be available sometime in 2011. Pretty specific, huh?

A Decade of Drooling...

As we begin the next decade, we decided to do a then and now. Here's a nostalgic look at what excited us years ago, and how things have changed...

**Transmission Audio Ultimate**

The number of elements itself in this bank-breaking speaker system are too many to list. For a mere \$2 million, you can get yourself the Transmission Audio Ultimate – the world's most expensive speakers. The Ultimate consists of twelve 500W speakers, a dual mono power amp. If that's not enough, it's also got 40 x 15-inch and 24 x 8-inch sub-woofers. Sounds perfect for the average Indian home, doesn't it? To add to the exclusivity, the speakers are only made to order, and perhaps after downpayment of a rather large percentage of the cost.

The last time we featured a speaker set this large was in October 2007 – the Kharma Grand Enigma. Of course only one Enigma was ever built.

**Red One Mysterium X**

The Mysterium X (above), is what we drool over today. It costs \$25,000, but only after you put down a deposit of \$2,500, due to its limited availability. The Mysterium X is housed inside an aluminum body and features a ton of I/O ports. But what's really cool is that it shoots at a 4K resolution – which means there are 4,000 horizontal pixels – more than twice as many as a 1080P wide-screen display, and much more than your swanky new LCD could ever display. Start saving for the Mysterium X and ensure crisp life-like picture quality for many years to come.

On the right, from February 2003, the Sony DCR IP 220 boasted of USB and Firewire support. It had a 2 megapixel CCD and came bundled with a whopping 8 MB of memory! OK, enough sarcasm.



Facebook serving malware!

According to research security vendor BitDefender, one in every five news feeds and updates you receive has malware

CoD sells over \$1 billion

Call of Duty: Black Ops is the first video game to hit \$1 billion sales figure in just the first month of its release!

Drool maal

Christie Mirage WU7K-M DLP

The first fully stereoscopic 3D DLP projector comes from Christie. This is the most compact projector in its class at the same time it delivers a powerhouse performance with 6,300 ANSI lumens and up to 10,000:1 contrast ratio for crystal clear images and excellent colour. The WU7K is one of the best projectors you can buy as it has an extended lamp life of 3000 hours and has low power consumption of only 20 watts in standby mode. It can project on almost any surface and has dual lamp support for greater installation flexibility. The best part is its ability to project full 3D images in High Definition.

On the right, from our January 2002 issue: the Sony Cineza projector had a display resolution of 800 x 600 pixels, and we were thrilled that it had a variety of inputs (DVD, PlayStation, and PC). Sigh! Good times.



Onkyo TX-NR5008

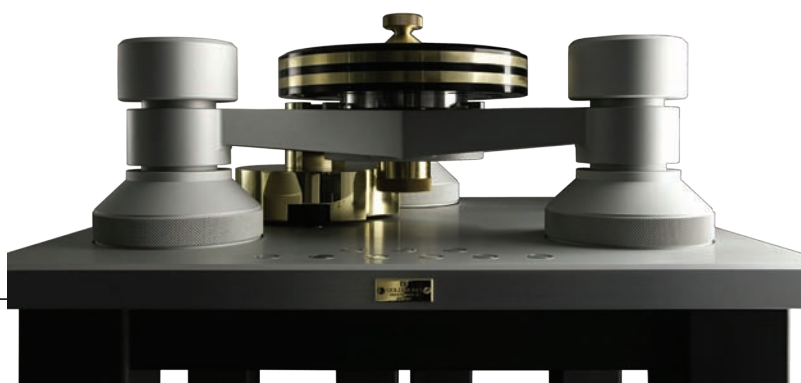
The TX-NR5008 by Onkyo has about every feature known to A/V receivers today. Its HDMI compliance is updated to 1.4a for 3D playback capability, there's support for iPhone and iPod along with its ability to sync with DLNA driven

devices, its also certified for use with Windows 7, and can . Don't miss out its compatibility with Internet radio web sites.

Goldmund Reference II

The level calibration on this device is precise to less than 1/100th of a millimetre, this is the true genius of the successor to the first Goldmund Reference (which reigned for a good 25 years). Available for \$300,000 the Goldmund Reference II turntable is limited with just 25 units being rolled out, and each year only five of these are manufactured. This is made to order (obviously) and only for true audio connoisseurs.

The Avid Acutus turntable we featured in September 2008 was considerably cheaper at a mere \$10,195.



Attack on Media

In a survey by Harvard University, a number of attacks were found to be against human rights and media groups websites

Fastest smartphone

With a dual core processor by Nvidia the LG Optimus 2 is the fastest smartphone on the planet

Siddharth Parwatay

siddharth.parwatay@thinkdigit.com

If you thought your little brush with an obscene joke or a gruesome image showing up on a simple Google image search was the maximum extent of online depravity you'll ever find, you're in for a surprise. If you're even more insular, and as they say an "internet virgin", you still think social networking creeps with fake profiles are "so sick ya", you're in for a bigger surprise – of the Santa-not-being-real proportions. The dark underbelly of the internet harbours a vast mass movement of content, people and generally twisted s**t that's unimaginable to a regular person.

Web sites such as Sikipedia – the worlds biggest collection of sick jokes, a certain decomposing shock web site, and RateMyPoop (needs no introduction) are just the tip of the iceberg. Beneath lies squalor and filth of ginormous propor-

"nope, why would it". As you scroll down, the page quickly degrades to images of violence, nudity, and twisted photographs with a sickening sexual connotation. If you'll notice at this point, we're treading on very thin ice while writing this article. The quandary we're in is pretty simple – how do we tell you about how sick the web is without actually giving away too much and influencing you young impressionable readers. The middle ground is this – we'll tell you about the sick crap out there, without actually telling you where you can find it. We assume that only the sickest will actually go looking for it, and those people would have found it anyway.

So why and how is all this demented stuff created? Internet rule #34 states "if you can imagine it, there's porn for it". Did you imagine Giant hedgehogs having sex with earth moving equipment? We wouldn't be surprised if it actually exists. Ergo, the extent of how

of the internet. Read on at your own risk and keep a puke bag handy.

The Internet Hate machine a.k.a

Anonymous – Perhaps the largest organised (or unorganised union) of like minded troublemakers. Imagine you could speak your mind without the fear of being judged. The only way that could really work is if your identity is hidden and no one can hold you accountable for your actions. Ideally such a setting should be pretty conducive to development right? But no. It seems to bring out the worst in people. The way anon works is pretty simple – they all come together on a anonymous picture message board and let loose. These legions fix on targets on a whim and indulge in what are known as 'raids' on various people, web sites or services. They believe that the internet is a place to abandon all moral restrictions, as they keep reminding everyone that the internet is "srs business". These guys will cause any kind of trouble

How sick is the WWW?

We're almost afraid to tell you, but we feel you need to know...

tions. One of the still relatively tame examples of this sub-culture is this huge web page that almost seems to scroll endlessly. Sickos share it often with unsuspecting victims. It starts off with a message asking whether the things you are seeing outrage you. You see cute images of bunnies and baby seals and go



sick the stuff is, is only limited by your dirty and twisted imaginations. That's

were the paradox lies – you want it, and hence you get it. So while you may turn your nose up at such content in the company of others, in the anonymity of your darkened room there's no telling what those idle hands are capable of. There's even a legion of people dedicated to servicing this twisted audience and its needs. Following are the kinds of broad rotten things you'll come across if you ever wandered off to the dark corners

just because they can. Pranks vary from throwing dead animals at someone's doors, ordering homosexual magazines to people's addresses, sending parcels of dung, and of course spamming the hell out of their mobile phones and destroying their online presence, sometimes with multiple, un-coordinated attacks. When Gene Simmons (a musician) was attacked in a similar way, family members were not spared either. Operation Payback as it was called, launched a series of DDoS attacks on many sites. These guys will do anything for the "Lulz" – a corruption which implies that enjoyment was derived from another's misfortune. Internet Rule #6 goes something like, "Anonymous can be a horrible, senseless, uncaring monster". Indeed.










Image Collectors – Remember a recent so called "expose" of a popular Indian actress of foreign origin? We're pretty sure many of you scoured the web for uncensored version of those images. Most of you would've been unsuc-

ANONYMOUS

We are Legion. We do not Forgive. We do not Forget.

FCC votes on new net neutrality rules but a number of people have criticised its final outcome

Ebay and PayPal were the two most spammed websites in November 2010

OPERATION PAYBACK	
 <p>KNOWLEDGE IS FREE WE ARE ANONYMOUS WE ARE LEGION WE DO NOT FORGIVE WE DO NOT FORGET EXPECT US!</p> 	
	September 8th - Aiplex admits to initiating DDoS strikes on torrent hosting websites
	September 17th - ■■■ issues "call to arms"; Anonymous launches DDoS against Aiplex, MPAA
	September 19th - DDoS attack on RIAA; Anonymous attempts Google bomb "ROBERT PISANO MPAA CEO ARRESTED FOR CHILD MOLESTATION"
	September 20th - DDoS planned against British Phonographic Industry derailed by hacked communications, focus again turns to Aiplex
	September 21st - DDoS attacks ACS:LAW & anti-piracy.nl
	September 23rd - DDoS attack Davenport Lyons
	September 24th - ACS:LAW email archive posted on The Pirate Bay
	September 27th - DDoS attack afact.org.au
	September 29th - DDoS attacks websheriff.com, dglegal.com
	October 4th - DDoS attack Ministry of Sound
	October 6th - DDoS attacks sgae.es, promusicae.es, mcu.es
	October 11th - DDoS attacks flm.it, ifil.it, pro-music.it
	October 15th - SQL injection used to hijack MPAA sites
	October 18th - DDoS acaorp.net, site hacked & email archive posted on The Pirate Bay; DDoS attacks ipo.gov.uk & GeneSimmons.com
	October 20th - DDoS attack satellim.net & Hustler.com
	October 23rd - DDoS attack Anti-Piracy.fi
	October 1st - DDoS attack RIAA.org, CEO home address & phone # posted for harassment
	November 3rd - DDoS attack Copyright.gov
	November 5th - DDoS attack Hadopi.fr
	November 8th - Anonymous says Operation Payback Is "taking a break"
	November 9th - FBI opens Operation Payback investigation; 2nd DDoS attack Copyright.gov
	November 11th - DDoS attack Irish Recorded Music Association

Fusers – The internet sometimes gives people a false sense of safety. Take for instance pictures that you put up on web galleries like Facebook, Picassa, Photobucket and Flickr. You have your privacy settings in place and you tend to believe the systems in place are infallible. Or even self-hosted web galleries where you think what are the odds that someone will know the exact URL of

To conclude, what we've noted above are just some of the dark things you can stumble across online. There's all sorts of filth ranging from illegal porn (yes surprised? It's all illegal! But some more so), to rampant racism, all kinds of intolerances made fun of, to illegal substances, to all sorts of information such how to bypass security in vehicles, commit suicide, rig traffic signals, to how to deactivate burglar alarms, how to make firearms, how to cook human meat, etc. Heck, we could write a couple of Fast Tracks on it! The only restraint is how sick the user is, to begin with. How do we know so much? Errr... we like to keep ourselves informed. **d**

★ **eScan** Wishes you a
Happy New Year !
2011



Anti-Virus

Anti-Virus | Anti-Spam | Anti-Spyware | Anti-Phishing
Application Control | Web Protection | Virtual Keyboard
Advanced Firewall | Privacy Protection | Gaming Mode
Folder & File Security | Identity Theft Prevention
Faster On-Demand Scanning

Awards



Partnerships



Are You Completely
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Manpower woes?

The years when Einstein made his landmark scientific discoveries, he did not even have access to a world class laboratory; he was only working as a minor clerk in the Swiss Patent Office

Manhattan Project

In 1939, the US government began the top secret "Manhattan Project," that aimed at producing a viable atomic bomb



The promise of unlimited Pollution free Power

India's has vast resources of critical elements could be solution for its energy deficit...

Anoop Verma

readersletters@thinkdigit.com

One of the most enchanting ideas for generation of unlimited pollution free power is the one that envisages the usage of antimatter. A design team working on antimatter rocket concepts at Pennsylvania State University has reached the conclusion that if an antimatter rocket were ever built, it would take us to Mars in mere six weeks and we might be back in perhaps four months. Theoretically, a single antimatter power station could meet the energy needs of the entire planet and there would be a little bit to spare for taking care of the requirements of a human colony on Mars. Basically antimatter is the exact opposite of matter, and when the two meet each other, a tremendous amount of energy is released. The idea of antimatter has made a significant impact in the fictional space. No self-respecting space ship in TV or film goes without an antimatter-powered engine. Case in point is USS Enterprise

in the cult movie *Star Trek*. But in the real world, we are yet to overcome the problem of getting hold of the stuff and storing it.

The rise of nuclear power

There is also talk of using nuclear fusion, a process in which two atomic nuclei fuse together to make a heavier metal, and in the process a large amount of energy gets released. Maybe someday human civilization will be able to harness the power of antimatter, and of nuclear fusion, but till that happens, we have to keep utilizing the options we have. Much of the power in the world is generated from coal and petroleum-based plants, but these methodologies lead to the creation of immense amount of greenhouse gases. Hydro-electricity, wind, tidal and solar power are also being explored, but as of now we have been unable to find ways of deriving sufficient energy from such resources. The least polluting and cheapest way of deriving energy is through nuclear fission, during which atoms split into smaller pieces, releasing tremendous burst of energy. At

this point of time, less than 15% of world's electricity is being generated from nuclear power. France is currently generating a maximum amount of its energy needs through nuclear reactors. However, when it comes to nuclear power vessels, US Navy is at the top; it owns majority of the of the world's around 150 nuclear vessels.

The lack of significant development in the nuclear power space must be due to the association of this technology with nuclear weapons. The accidents at Chernobyl and Three Mile Island also contributed in making nuclear technology unacceptable to many sections of society. But if an unbiased and scientific view is taken, then it becomes clear that nuclear energy is as safe as any other way of generating power. The truth is that no lives were lost in the accident at Three Mile Island, and a Chernobyl type accident is physically impossible in a modern reactor. These days we use reactors of self-limiting design, so it is virtually impossible for them to run out of control and explode. Moreover, the prices of natural gas, coal and oil have skyrocketed, so the power generated from such sources is no longer cheap. Society has turned against greenhouse emissions, which result from burning of fossil fuel. If all this is taken into account then nuclear power seems like a much better option; it is cheaper, safer and less polluting.

When Einstein derived his iconic formula $E = MC^2$, he had envisioned a technology capable of producing abundant energy at low cost. So the notion that he was the Father of the Atomic Bomb, which obliterated Hiroshima and Nagasaki in August 1945, is not based on complete truth. If anything, he is the Father of Nuclear Power that meets about 15 per cent of the world's energy needs. The first nuclear reactor in the world was built in 1942, by an American group of researchers, who were being led by the Italian born, scientist Enrico Fermi. Today much of our nuclear power is generated through the use of Uranium. Even though Uranium is a heavy metal, it does not sink to the centre of the earth, and can be found in the continental crust. However, it is never found in natural state; it is mostly found in the form of oxides, such as Uraninite (UO_2) or Pitchblende (U_3O_8). In its natural form, Ura-

History

When Marie and Parie Curie were engaged in their research on radioactivity, they had very little idea about the dangerous health related effects of radiation

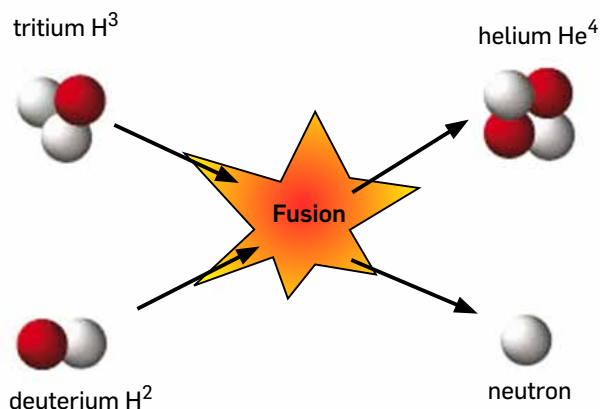
From the labs

nium comes in a mixture of two isotopes - U-235 and U-238. The mixture will contain 99.3 per cent of U-238 and only 0.7 per cent of U-235.

Harnessing uranium

Both U-238 and U-235 are unstable and radioactive, which means that they release nuclear particles in a steady stream till they get turned into lead. However, the half life of U-238 is very large, it stands at around 4.47 billion years. Half life is scientific term for the period of time that it takes for a radioactive material undergoing decay to decrease by half. The half life of U-235 is around 700 million years. That is the prime reason why U-238 occurs in much higher quantities as compared to U-235. Scientists have concluded that around 1.7 billion years ago, the uranium existing on earth must have been naturally enriched, and through the process of nuclear fission, it could have generated lot of heat for around a million years. For use in a nuclear reactor, the uranium needs to be enriched, so that the concentration of U-235 is increased from 0.7 per cent to around 4 to 5 per cent. Even if you have a tonne of U-238, nuclear fission will not take place, and so the process of enrichment is necessary.

During fission an atom of Uranium-235 releases an alpha particle, which consists of two neutrons and two protons bound together. As this alpha particle travels it gets absorbed by the nucleus of another atom, which also becomes unstable and splits into two lighter atoms and two or three new neutrons. The process of capturing of alpha particles and splitting of atoms happens at extremely fast pace and this results in generation of a huge amount of energy. The decay of a single U-235 atom releases approximately 200 MeV (million electron volts). This might not seem like much, but theoretically speaking, a kilogram of Uranium-235 can produce energy, which is equivalent to the energy that can come from 3000 tonnes of coal. However, the waste product of the reactors using U-235 is Plutonium-239, which is itself radioactive and can be used to make a nuclear weapon. The disposal of Plutonium-239 is difficult, as the material can remain radioactive for thousands of years; it has to be buried in deep underground bunkers, which must be leak proof to ensure that there is no seepage into the soil.



It has often been claimed that many governments have focussed on developing Uranium reactors, because they were more interested in the waste by products generated by the Uranium fuel cycle that can be used for making nuclear weapons. In fact there is an

AMKETTE

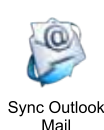


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BARC

In 2005, scientists from Bhabha Atomic Research Centre unveiled a revolutionary design for a Thorium Breeder Reactor, which can produce 600 MW of electricity for two years, with no refuelling and practically no control manoeuvres

From the labs

alternative fuels for a different type of nuclear reactor, but as this fuel does not lead to the creation of weapon making material as a waste product, the governments are not interested in using it. The name of this fuel is Thorium, which is a radioactive material, named after Thor, the Norse god of thunder.

The promise of Thorium

Between 1964 and 1969 United States had done major experiments for using Thorium for producing energy. The results were positive, but after the initial tests were completed the Thorium reactors were shut down and the focus returned solely on Uranium based reactors. This was the cold war era and USA needed sufficient amount of nuclear weapons, which could only be had from a Uranium fuel cycle. Once again the attention is returning to Thorium. India is in the forefront of the countries, which are currently engaged in developing new technologies that can use thorium fuel cycle to produce electricity. According to some estimates, about 25 per cent of the world's known reserves of thorium are located in India. Only Australia has more known reserves of the element. In fact, Thorium is available in earth's crust in such large quantities that it poses as a virtually inexhaustible source of energy. Almost all the Thorium that is mined can be used as a fuel, whereas in case of Uranium, the ratio stands at around 1 per cent.

Thorium occurs naturally as Th-232 and it has a half life of over 14 billion years, or about three times the age of earth. The best thing about thorium


fuel cycles is that they produce much less radioactive waste, including the weapon grade plutonium, as compared to uranium and hence are easier on the environment. The fact that it is impossible for a terrorist group or a rogue state to use Thorium reactors to make nuclear weapons does have the effect of making this technology extremely appealing to peace loving citizens. After all, the idea of having nuclear power without the inherent risks of radioactive pollution and threats of proliferation has some kind of a political appeal all over the world. During the last two decades, scientists from India and few other countries have been playing a major role in developing Thorium-based reactors. The Indian government is expecting that by 2050, almost 25 per cent of India's energy needs will come from nuclear sources, a part of which will be fuelled by thorium.

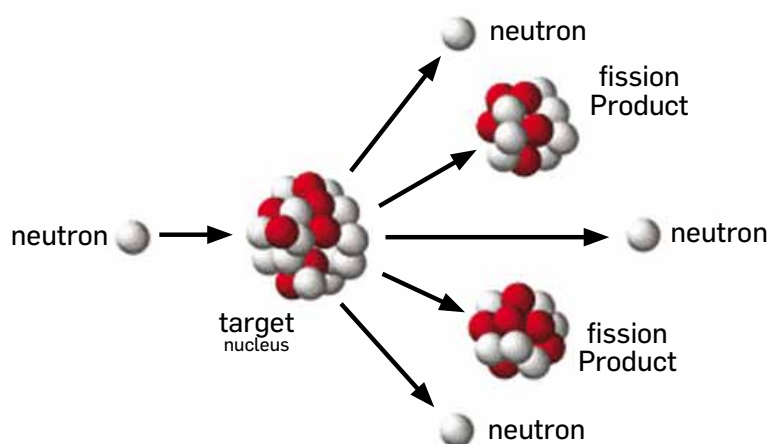
Carlo Rubbia, who won the Nobel Prize in physics in 1984, has been working on developing the use of Thorium as a cheap, clean and safe fuel. Recently Carlo Rubbia had said, "A tonne of the silvery metal could be used to produce as much energy as 200 tonnes of Uranium, or 3,500,000 tonnes of coal. A mere fistful would light London for a week." According to scientists, the biggest challenge in building a thorium reactor comes from its legendary efficiency. Thorium is so efficient as a fuel that its reactions can be sustained for a very long time. So the fuel needs to be enclosed in special containers that are durable enough to withstand the corrosive salts. Numerous ideas for how such special containers could be

built by using corrosion-resistant alloys and graphite have been put forward, but such systems are yet to be tested.

Cartels delaying the launch of Thorium

More than anything else, it is establishment prejudice that seems to be hindering the development of thorium fuelled reactors. As the entire world's nuclear infrastructure is built around uranium, many large corporates could loose out on their huge investments, if thorium based reactors became popular. The international trade in uranium reactors and in enriched fuel runs into hundreds of billions of dollars; thorium could prove to be a game changer and pave way for the rise of a new kind of reactors, as well a fuel that is much cheaper and is easily available. Purely financial motives could be motivating powerful international uranium cartels to use their clout for hindering research into thorium. Despite the initiatives taken by India and few other countries, there still exists the risk that thorium may not be taken up by the broader nuclear energy industry. That would be unfortunate. It makes lot of sense for governments and private organisations to seriously pursue thorium as a source of unending green energy.

Kirk Sorensen, a former NASA rocket engineer and now chief nuclear technologist at Teledyne Brown Engineering, considers Thorium to be the next big thing. He says, "Once you start looking more closely, it blows your mind away. You can run civilisation on thorium for hundreds of thousands of years, and it's essentially free. You don't have to deal with uranium cartels." Some scientists have suggested that one way of tackling the lack of funds could be to start using thorium in uranium based reactors. But Kirk Sorensen is against the idea. He says, "You have to use the right machine. You don't use diesel in a petrol car: you build a diesel engine." Once unique plants for using thorium as fuel become operational, nuclear power could become much more routine and unthreatening. Thorium could be the elusive material that will one day allow emerging economies like India and China to provide energy to their massive populations over their creaking infrastructures. 



worldview

OUR PICK OF THE BEST TECH ARTICLES FROM AROUND THE GLOBE

(MUST READS)

HANDS ON: CR-48



Google's net-centric Chrome OS platform challenges conventional notions about what constitutes an operating system. Get a feel for the device through this in-depth Ars Technica hands on. PS. That's the box it comes in.

<http://bit.ly/fGzDhz>

IS IT TIME FOR A SWO?

With most real time and relevant data being served up on sites like Twitter, Facebook and other social media, is it time for a new Google-like 'Social Web Optimisation'?

<http://goo.gl/5FPon>

AVATAR TOPS IN PIRACY LIST

Biggest grossing movie of all time with over \$2 billion in box office collections is also the most downloaded film of 2010. With more than 16 million downloads Avatar tops the list of the most pirated films of the past year. Read more on

<http://bbc.in/h96ZBm>

ACER ANDROID TABLET

Well, it looks like everyone wants a piece of the tablet pie. Three videos of what appears to be Acer's 10-inch Android tablet have popped up on YouTube. And Engadget as always was there to give you the scoop. Check it out

<http://engt.co/fj3yvS>

(Wired Corner)

HOW TO FLY THE HARRIER JUMP JET



A now declassified document showcased both the complexity and the awesomeness of the Harrier. Wired edited down the 714-page document to the best diagrams and most interesting segments and even takes a trip down memory lane with some of its kills and achievements in the Falklands Island War

<http://bit.ly/fRZ60D>



6 Strange Fossils

A gallery of some of the key fossil species that have both confounded and inspired scientists in their efforts to understand the history of life and have confirmed Darwin's vision of a branching tree of life

<http://bit.ly/f4pNtj>



Terminator vision for troops

Imagine a suite of cameras that digitally capture a kilometer-wide, 360-degree sphere, representing the image in 3-D onto a wearable eyepiece with a 10x zoom for both eyes! Killer tech right? Literally.

<http://bit.ly/f7gtP4>



8-Year-Olds Publish Scientific Study

School children discover that bumblebees can use a combination of colour and spatial relationships in deciding which colour of flower to forage from. Their report was apparently written in coloured pencils and crayons.

<http://bit.ly/ijP9m8>

**AMD TALKS FUSION:
TECHNOLOGY,
SOFTWARE, STRATEGY**

What took so long? What about Sandy Bridge? GPGPU is the key? Hear it straight from the horse's mouth. An up close and personal chat on Xbitlabs.

<http://bit.ly/gSFESX>

NO PLAGIARISM HERE!

How much is too much? Fair use laws which enable you to take part of any copyrighted content, have been ambiguous. Jason Schultz who is a law professor at Berkely explains how even when a site copies an entire article it's still fair use.

<http://bit.ly/ehaa2>

DEATH OF MICROSOFT KIN

A phone designed for teens and young adults without putting any thought on

what they might want or hate and all you are left with is the biggest tech flop of the year
<http://bit.ly/fxTkTJ>

**ARE EARLY ADOPTERS
REALLY APPRECIATED?**

"99% of the earth's population cares not a whit about Android, iOS, OS X, Windows, Honeycomb, Tegra 2, Sand Hill, or SSDs", says TechCrunch. Read on for an interesting point of view

<http://tcrn.ch/h5AgZ7>

SHORTS

5 ways Android is better than Chrome OS

By Sascha Seagan



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Google's Cr-48 Chrome laptop is a really stupid idea, based on Polyannaish concepts of how wireless networks and carriers function. It's a device made for perfect networks with unlimited data and uninterrupted connectivity, which don't exist in America today. Cementing Chrome's uselessness, Google has a much better mobile OS play: Android.

I somewhat understand the appeal of Google Chrome OS on an inexpensive desktop PC, a nettop. Tethered to a 100 percent reliable, fast connection with unlimited data, it's possible to do a lot of basic things in "the cloud." Like many other unsuccessful, Linux-based con-

sumer PCs, a Chrome-based computer will be immune to many viruses and much malware. But those Linux-based nettops have failed before, and I don't see what Chrome brings to the table that an older Linux PC with Firefox didn't.

If Google wants an OS for portable devices, it doesn't have to look farther than its existing Android group. Here's why Android is superior to Chrome:

1. Wireless networks aren't reliable

It's not just about dead zones. There are plenty of places where 3G and Wi-Fi are slow or unusable—inside buildings where you don't have the Wi-Fi password, on airplanes where the Wi-Fi is clogged and slow, deep inside shopping malls or hotels where the walls repel 3G.

Android phone developers know this. That's why many Android apps have offline modes. Whether you're reading the New York Times, watching a video stored on an SD card, or playing Angry Birds, your Android phone doesn't freeze up or become a door-stop when the networks go dark.

Chrome devices have some local storage, but Google seems to treat this as an embarrassing, shameful secret, only to be revealed in dire circumstances.

**2. "Living in the cloud" will bust your data cap**

Chrome OS users get 100MB per month from Verizon Wireless for free. But "living in the cloud" without the sort of server-side optimization used by Opera and BlackBerry is a horrendous data hog. With a laptop and a tethered smartphone, I typically use 100-250MB per work day—and that's with a local word processor and other local apps!

This is all fine in a world without data caps. But we don't live in that world. In fact, it looks like 3G and 4G data plans will become even more extensively metered in the future. Chromebook owners who want to travel away from their desks will have to either hunt high and low for Wi-Fi hotspots, or sign up for Verizon data plans and find themselves using more data than if they were accessing the Web using more parsimonious smartphone apps.

Android smartphone owners also have the option to download alternative browsers like Opera and Skyfire, which sip rather than guzzle data, reducing data



HISTORY OF FAILURES

Even the big wigs make mistakes. Check out an interesting info-graphic on how Rupert Murdoch tried to use the internet as a broadcasting medium rather than a communications one, none of it got down really well.

<http://bit.ly/ifvtvs>

SKYPE GOES DOWN, CREATES BUZZ ON TWITTER

As many as a million users who experienced Skype crashing on their systems lost no time in playing their angst out on Twitter. #Skype was trending for quite some time. Looks like a lot of people mostly use twitter to vent some frustration. We kid.

<http://tcrn.ch/ebTEvE>

APPLE PRODUCTS DESTROYED IN THE NAME OF ART

Artist Michael Tompert burns, shoots, train wrecks, uses hammers and axe on Apple products. None are spared from his 'artistic' hands from the iPad to the magic mouse he creates some interesting visuals and portraits by destroying Apple products. Check out his gallery by visiting

<http://bit.ly/dkLcye>



usage even further. Chromebooks won't have that ability.

3. Web technologies suck for many app categories, especially games

The Chromebook can play a wide selection of simple, casual, weak-sauce Flash games. It's like the first year of the iPhone all over again, when Steve Jobs insisted



that HTML5 could provide great gaming experiences. Apple got wise to this pretty quickly; you need a better SDK than the Web provides to offer the games that users really want.

Palm went through the same growth process with WebOS spawning the PDK game development kit, and Android offers its NDK for game developers.

Tethered to the Web, the Chromebook will lag behind the simplest low-end smartphone when it comes to options for game developers and players.

4. Honeycomb will solve Android's screen size and input issues

Android-powered, laptop-form-factor devices have failed in the past in part because Android's apps and UI just aren't designed for full keyboards and big screens. Compared to Windows and Mac OS notebooks, Android "smartbooks" looked like toys.

We can still argue the toy thing, but the new, tablet-centric version of Android called Honeycomb will usher in an era of big screens and full-sized

interfaces for the mobile OS. Honeycomb could easily be transplanted to laptop form factor devices. While I still think consumers would choose Windows and Mac OS over Honeycomb on a laptop, Honeycomb will have a much bigger ecosystem than Chrome, because Chrome only has the Web. Honeycomb has the Web and more.

5. Chrome is an app, not an OS

Android could run Chrome. If Google truly believed its Chrome platform was a portal to glory, the company could slap an ARM-coded version of Chrome onto a device running Android and call it a day. Chrome, on the other hand, cannot run anything else.

I'm pretty convinced that the Chrome and Android projects will merge sooner rather than later, with Chrome becoming a layer or app on Android. Do you agree? I'd love to read your thoughts below.



**ANTI-GRAVITY
TREADMILL**

How do you exercise when you're in space and gravity is not weighing you down? A device originally intended to rehabilitate soldiers who have sustained injuries may be the solution. Scientific American reports
<http://bit.ly/cdqUGZ>

**COSMIC GEM, SUN BURP,
VEGAS**

No they're not names of psychoactive drugs. They're three awesome photographs of anomalies in outer space captured by NASA's space imaging equipment.
<http://bit.ly/eCSfs>

WIKILEAKS AT IT AGAIN!

Before his arrest Wikileaks spokesperson Julian Assange hinted that the next target would be a major American bank, without naming it. Bank of America has started registering domain names for its senior executives, so that once the documents are leaked the chaos can be contained.
<http://rww.to/hOK47C>

**2011'S MOST
ANTICIPATED GEAR**

With a host of products lined up for release in 2011, check out what is going to be hot and what could turn out to be the next tech dud. Anticipations are high over the iPad 2 and Sony's PSP phone. We look forward to having a year full of tech innovations and surprises.
<http://bit.ly/gx6EfL>

The Problem With Big Hard Drives

By Matthew Murray



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Ever since hard drives went mainstream in the late 1980s, computer owners have been able to count on one thing: their increasing capacity. As a result, what once used to be little more than a convenient method for reducing disk swapping has now become an integral part of daily life, with hard drives today storing not just our programs and our documents, but our very memories in the form of the photos and videos. The ever-increasing numbers of those have forced storage capacity to skyrocket to still more diz-

zying levels, to the point where most ordinary people now only really think of it when they're in danger of filling it up. But there's a reason that really large hard drives should be at the forefront of every computer owner's mind: they're about to become unusable.

Okay, perhaps that's a bit hyperbolic—but only a bit. The fact is, we're not just approaching the threshold at which hard drives can't get bigger: We're already there. The advent of very large hard drives, we're talking over 2.19 terabytes (TB) in capacity, in 2010 has highlighted a problem that's been growing for well over a decade, and whose seeds were planted when the very first hard drives hit the market some 25 or 30 years

ago. The good news is that there are some solutions to it; the bad news is, they're little more than workarounds for an issue that needs more than makeshift bandages.

What Is the 2.19TB Barrier?

Back in the days when hard drives' capacities were measured in megabytes at the outside (we're talking the 1950s here, though it was still the case well into the 1980s, when floppy disks' sizes were measured only in kilobytes), a block size of 512 bytes made sense as a way of maximizing available space. But during the boom years of the 1990s, when drives were rapidly getting bigger and performance started straining, the 512-byte block size became more restrictive. So the industry decided to up the standard block size to 4,096 bytes, or 4KB (sometimes referred to as "Advanced Format"); 4KB blocks have more efficient methods of error checking, which mean they can devote less space to it, resulting in drives of higher capacities and those that encounter fewer errors.

It was a good idea, but it didn't gain mainstream adoption until after Windows XP made its big splash in 2001. That OS creates primary disk partitions at logical block address 63, just short of being perfectly divisible by eight, so it writes data across both sides of the physical boundary of the 4KB sector. In other words, the world's most popular operating system for the better part of a decade didn't support 4KB blocks, which put a huge crimp in the industry's efforts to expand the initiative. Luckily, there was a



VISUALIZING FRIENDSHIPS



A Facebook intern visually maps the 500 million friendships that exist on the social networking site. Check out the visual to see how geography and political borders influence where people live relative to their friends.

<http://on.fb.me/fcG8Ng>

CULTUROMICS

Digital tools such as ngrams. googlelabs.com are propagating this branch of study and research. With the tool you can chart the usage of words historically within Google's nearly 5.2 million digitized books right back to the 1800s. Some very interesting cultural inferences can be drawn from it. Highly addictive.

<http://ngrams.googlelabs.com/>

WHEN COMPUTERS GO WRONG

A look at ten IT disasters that highlight the precariously fickle nature of computers. The screwups highlighted in this article may have caused lasting damage to the finances or reputations of those involved, but thankfully nobody was physically harmed in the making of this list.

<http://bit.ly/fil18Vj>

way around this problem that could both benefit Windows XP users and ease the transition for everyone to the larger block sizes: Hard drives would report their blocks as only being 512 bytes in size, so any OS that didn't understand the larger sizes could just "see" each 4KB block as eight 512-byte blocks. Windows XP, then, would just need to "align" its sectors properly; that was hardly an insurmountable problem and, indeed, Western Digital has designed software to compensate.

Unfortunately, even 4KB sectors couldn't guarantee drives of infinite capacity. Because of the limitations of the BIOS and 32-bit MBR partition in the earliest years of computing, hard drive capacities had a firm upper ceiling of 232 logical blocks. If each of those blocks was 512 bytes in size, that meant that MBR drives could store no more than 2,199,023,255,552 bytes, or 2.19TB.

More Problems and More Solutions

For computers to recognize drives any larger than 2.19TB, the MBR and the BIOS would have to be replaced. The successor to the MBR is the GUID Partition Table (GPT), which offers 64-bit block addressing, and thus (when 4KB blocks are utilized) a maximum storage size of 9.4 zettabytes (or 9.4 trillion gigabytes). What's supplanting BIOS, which can't read GPT, is the Unified Extensible Firmware Interface (UEFI), which is built on CPU-independent architecture and drivers and offers more flexibility and features outside of the operating system. Because Windows XP has no support whatsoever for GPT and UEFI, no system running it can natively use any drive with a capacity over 2.19TB. Even if you have a supported OS (Windows Vista, Windows 7, and most flavors of Linux) that recognizes

GPT, you won't be able to boot to a drive of that size unless you also have a motherboard running UEFI—something that, as of this writing in late 2010, very few do. All current Intel boards support UEFI, but almost no other major manufacturer has yet followed suit. So, under most circumstances, if you don't have a UEFI motherboard (and you probably don't), you'll have to use your extra-large hard drive for storage only. (There are worse things.)

Finally, your system's SATA controller must also be designed to recognize 4KB blocks. This isn't necessarily a big deal: As we discovered when we reviewed Western Digital's new 3TB Caviar Green hard drive, the company is including with all its above-2.19TB drives a PCI Express x1 Host Bus Adapter that lets Windows use a known driver to communicate with the drive.

What Does the Future Hold?

Right now, there aren't a lot of compelling reasons for most home users to worry about drives larger than 2.19TB. Factor in the compatibility problems, and you're investing more money and time in a product than you may necessarily want to. Right now, the less-expensive, faster, easier-to-understand-and-configure storage is the better choice all the way around.

This isn't to say this will be the case forever—or even for very long. As of this writing, Asus has just introduced a software app called Disk Unlocker that will let users partition storage space above 2.19TB as a virtual drive. But it has a bunch of restrictions, not the least of which is that it only works with Asus motherboards. It's an imperfect fix, but it shows what's possible.

It also shows how far we still have to go. In many cases, the software irritations have



already been soothed: 64-bit operating systems now make up a vast percentage of the market; and Windows XP is slowly fading away, and with it MBR. That leaves the current bottleneck as hardware: The only sure-fire way to deal with these problems once and for all is for motherboard manufacturers to universally implement UEFI and use SATA controllers that recognize 4KB blocks, two things that haven't happened yet. Hard drive makers agreeing on 2011 as the first official year in which 4KB blocks will be the rule and 512-byte blocks the exception is a good first step, but it can't be the last one. We have no doubt that WD and other hard drive companies will continue pushing the boundaries of storage capacity. But right now, too few users are properly equipped to follow where they're leading.



C'mon, you haven't heard of RWJ? He does slick reviews of funny YouTube

videos twice a week. Every Monday and Thursday you can have some lols as he takes a funny dig at stupid stuff online. We catch up with his videos whenever time permits. Naah who are we kidding, we watch them all the time!

<http://bit.ly/WgngP>

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(PRODUCT LAUNCHES)

NEXUS S



Built by Samsung, for Google. It's the first smartphone to run on Android 2.3 Gingerbread. Featuring a 1 GHz Hummingbird processor with a dedicated GPU, 16 GB internal memory, 4.0 inch touchscreen it's certainly droolworthy. Price - \$529

SAMSUNG CONTINUUM



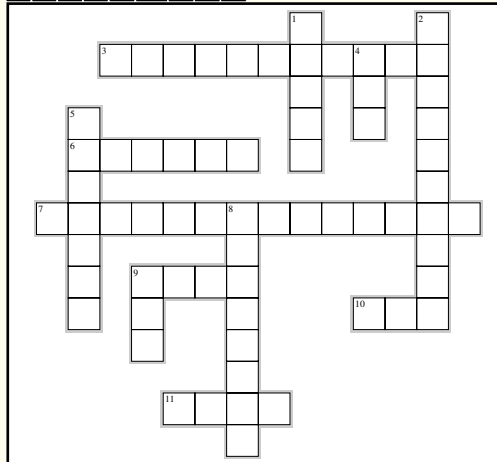
Featuring two super AMOLED displays the Samsung Continuum might be the next big innovation in the smartphone technology. It offers DLNA and Tethering support. Price - \$ 527 for the unlocked version.

CHEVROLET VOLT 2011



The next gen electric cars are here and after Toyota Prius, the Chevy Volt would take up the mantle. Truly a car of the 21st century, the Chevy Volt is an electric car with endless app support on the Verizon network. Price- \$ 40,000

CROSSWORD



ACROSS

3. What is Apple's biggest tech dud in the past year
6. The Wikileaks server bunker is in this country
7. Time Man of the year
9. One target, distributed attack
10. Intel's new research lab
11. A famous GPS chipset

DOWN

1. Intel is planning to launch this Bridge at CES 2011
2. Character played by Justin Timberlake in The Social Network
4. Techcrunch and Engadget are owned by?
5. Last name of Wikileaks spokesperson/founder
8. Mashable founder : Pete ?
9. A critical infrastructure component of the internet

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Top 3 YouTube Picks

Make sure your boss doesn't catch you goofing off with one of these playing on your PC screen



<http://bit.ly/atZpA>

Duration: 1m 00s

Windows phone 7 official Ad featuring the Samsung Focus. A tongue in cheek look at how phones are consuming us.



<http://tcrn.ch/hQu5Bu>

Duration: 1m 44s

Google sent seven Nexus S phones into space, each running a different app to see how the phone sensors react.



<http://bit.ly/fUVMeU>

Duration: 1m 29s

Here's your chance to watch the 2010 winter solstice - total lunar eclipse in time lapse. Awesome footage.



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Early wireless tech

In 1895, when Marconi began conducting experiments in wireless signals he was only able to send signals from one end of the room to other

Edison improved on an idea

In popular imagination, Thomas Alva Edison was the inventor of the light bulb, but the truth is that he only improved upon an existing idea

Technologies of Tomorrow

What did we learn this decade that will change the next?

Anoop Verma

readersletters@thinkdigit.com

Technology is like a magic carpet, one that is imbued with incredible powers of taking us to a new way of life. Smartphones are now a part of our lives, but about a decade ago it might have been difficult for us to imagine that we would one day be moving around with phones that are as powerful as many PCs. The concept of connectivity and networking on the go has also spread at a scorching pace and it has brought about a seminal change in our perception of the world. There is no doubt that we are going to be greeted by even more interesting technologies. Scientists are busy planning products that will bring a new dimension to our lives by enabling us to do things in new ways. Here is a look at some of the innovations that could become part of our lives during the next decade:

The evolution of the Touchscreen

When the first Apple iPhone landed in our hands, the touchscreen on it did seem like a sort of futuristic technology. But future always has a tendency to surprise. The touchscreen we might be using during the next decade might turn out to be a lot more advanced. How about a foldable touchscreen! You could roll it into a neat bundle and tuck it in one corner of your handbag, and when you want to use it, you simply spread it out on a flat surface. Currently a concept laptop is under development whose body, from one end to other, consists of a single touchscreen; it can be bent, so that one part of the touchscreen starts acting like a normal screen, while the other will

showcase the usual set of keyboard buttons. Apple, Dell and many other top tech companies are at the forefront of the race to enhance the capabilities of the touchscreen. Another tech major, Qualcomm, recently filed a patent for an interesting tablet, which is made out of three touchscreens. So you can rest assured that there is a touch-bonanza waiting for you.

Cars, laptops and mobile batteries that last longer

All of us have been through those frustrating occasions when we had the mobile, laptop or even the car battery conking off on us. You have to plug these gizmos to the mains after every few hours. But in the years to come, we might have batteries that are much more pow-



Advanced batteries

erful. Scientists are conducting their research on many different lines. There is a research currently on at University of Maryland that envisages the usage of nanotechnology to store electrical energy in batteries for very long periods of time. Batteries that can be charged in just six minutes are also under development. In case of car batteries, really innovative ideas are being

contemplated. For instance, Volvo and few European carmakers have teamed up with the Imperial College, London, to develop cars that could use their own bodywork as a battery. The same technology could also be used for laptops and mobiles. Instead of having a separate battery, the body of these gadgets could serve as a very long lasting battery.

Smell your TV

When the small screen is showcasing visuals of piping hot food being pulled out of the oven, you often get struck by the longing of being able to smell the food. In few years, you might as well be able to fulfil this wish. Along with titillating your eyes and ears, the TV of the future might also pack the technology for reaching out to your olfactory senses. Currently under development is a system called SMELLIT, a brainchild of Nuno Teixeira. The technology closely resembles the working of an inkjet printer. Only in this case, the cartridges will be loaded with 118 individual smells. Once SMELL IT has been activated, it will automatically process the DVD or television signals, and release the relevant smells 10 or 20 seconds before the actual scene. The advance release is to allow the



SMELL IT!

Power saving

Replacing 60W lights with LED bulbs could save enough electricity per year to light 17.4 million households in the US

Teleportation possible!

In 2009, scientists working at the University of Maryland's Joint Quantum Institute, successfully teleported data between atoms a meter apart

smell enough time to reach the spectators. However, SMELL IT might not be such a good idea where the TV is showing visuals of something filthy. You would not want to have your room suddenly filled with an obnoxious smell. But you can take care of this problem by programming SMELL IT to release smells only when the aroma is pleasant. The same technology could also arrive on your mobile and laptops.

How big a screen do you need to be able to read?

Powerful computers, as small as mobiles, can be built, but the size cannot get too small due to the limitations posed by human senses. You won't feel comfortable doing your computing work on a screen that is as small as a mobile; you need a conventional sized laptop screen. But what if the computer screen came in the form of goggles, which you could wear in front of your eyes! Then you would get the feeling that the screen is really large, even though it is only as large as a normal goggle. In fact, you could take this concept further, so

that your TV comes in the form of a goggle. You wear it on your eyes and start enjoying an exciting TV show. Virtual reality and gaming goggles are already quite common. For instance, Sony has developed a portable head-mounted display called Glasstron, which was released in US markets in 1997. The Glasstron of the future could have touchscreen like capabilities; only thing is that instead of touching with your fingers, you would be interacting with the screen through vision-based commands.

How long will we live

Life expectancy is on the rise. In some developed countries like Japan, people are now normally expected to live till the age of 90. This improvement in longevity is mainly due to better healthcare facili-

ties and healthier living habits. But in times to come, the age of average human being may shoot up because of some new technologies that hinder the aging



How long will we live, DNA

process. Some scientists have theorized that there exists as death gene in our DNA that limits our life span. So if this death gene could be tweaked, then it might as well allow us to live for

very long periods of time. Scientists working in Harvard have managed to reverse the aging process in mice. Someday that kind of technology might

be available for human beings. Another group of scientists working in University of Michigan Comprehensive Cancer Centre have managed to identify a gene that controls the amazing ability of adult stem cells to self-renew, or make new copies of themselves, throughout life.

If you have been looking

for the proverbial fountain of youth, then you might as well get lucky during the course of the next decade.

Creation of artificial life

We usually think of life as something that only God or nature can create. But during the next few years, our perspectives on this issue may undergo a dramatic change. Maverick biologist and billionaire entrepreneur, Craig Venter has managed to create a synthetic bacterium in his privately funded J Craig Venter Institute in Rockville, Maryland. The bacterium, which is nicknamed Synthia, could pave way for the creation of larger organisms in future. While a scientific breakthrough of every kind is welcome, the creation of artificial life has also raised some ethical concerns. Craig Venter and his team of



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Happier employees

Keihin Electric Railway in Japan has developed software, which scans the smile of the employees to help them in maximizing cheeriness

researchers have been accused of playing God and tampering with the essence of life. Fears are being expressed that such biological research could lead to the creation of new forms of virulent viruses or an

ultimate biological weapon, which might destroy millions of lives. But it is also a fact that the time has probably come for man to start taking a deeper look into what is really meant by life. There is no doubt that in years to come many other scientists will be able to create different forms of life. Eventually society will have to come to terms with this new scientific development.



J Craig Venter

End of newspapers?

For most us the day starts with having our quota of news from our favourite newspaper, which is printed on large sheets of paper. Is it possible that someday we might start getting our news from an electronic device instead of printed paper? Devices like iPad and Kindle could prove to be a game changer for the newspaper industry. When you can access news from all parts of the world by simply moving your fingers across a beautiful touchscreen, then you might not feel the need for a conventional newspaper. Even with a laptop



iPad - the new newspaper

and PC, getting news from the Internet is quite easy; many net savvy individuals have already become habituated to using these devices to get their news. In future, we might have access to even better electronic devices and that could lead to a larger number of readers getting weaned away from paper newspapers. No one should be surprised if the coming decade sees a big shake-up in the newspaper industry.

HTML5 to change the internet?

HTML5 is on the horizon and it packs lot of conveniences to make us feel ecstatic about it. Major tech companies like Google, are banking heavily on the success of HTML5, which removes the need for extra, optional elements inside the actual code and makes websites load faster. Flash has often been the cause of frustration; the files load too slowly. HTML5 will change the nature of our websites, as it does not rely on Flash for delivering animation. In addition to all this there are many other ways by which HTML5 could bring ease to your browsing activity.

Will Cyborgs become real?

The phrase cyborg stands for cybernetic organisms, which are part human, part machine. The next decade could see a major push towards the creation of cyborgs. Hollywood has over the years shown remarkable fascination with cyborgs, but you don't need to worry, there is hardly any chance of a Terminator like being coming into existence for many decades. What we might see is a trend towards larger number of people getting themselves implanted with chips or other electronic devices for health reasons or simply for convenience. For instance, those suffering from diabetes could have a chip, capable of monitoring and regulating sugar levels, implanted in their body. There could be those who might go in for having small computing devices implanted in their hands or feet for myriad reasons. In 1998 Kevin Warwick, who is now the Professor of Cybernetics at the University of Reading, England, had got a silicon chip embedded in his arm. The chip allowed computers to monitor

Fastest steampowered car


By clocking, 151 mph, in his 25ft long vehicle, Charles Burnett III created a new land-speed record for a steam-powered car on a track in California.



Are Cyborgs going to be reality?

him as he moved around the Department of Cybernetics at the University.

Universal translators

In a world where thousands of languages are spoken, we could certainly do with a "Universal Translator" type of a device. As of now a Universal Translator has mostly been seen in sci-fi TV serials and movies, but it is also a fact that the ability of computer based translators is improving. There is no dearth of websites on the Internet, which offer the facility of translations from one language to another; in many cases the services are entirely free. As of now the translations are done on a word-for-word basis, so the grist of spoken language is often lost. But that might change in the years to come. We could start having computer systems, which can understand the emotional and the social meanings subsumed in a sentence and then translate accordingly. Along with many other companies, Google is currently said to be developing a translator, which will use voice recognition system and a database, to enable a robotic voice to recite the translation in the desired language. So in the years to come, it might become lot easier for you to strike a conversation with someone who has a different linguistic background. 



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Wii-Hab

A relatively new and evolving field of medicine incorporating interactive video game systems to treat or research neurological or orthopedic ailments

<http://goo.gl/PvaCQ>

Poker Surface uses mobile phones and a multi-touch surface to play interactive card games

New-age interfaces

We have been tied to our input devices for far too long, but some cutting edge research in the field of gesture based computing is bringing it out of the realm of science fiction and into our everyday lives, taking us one step closer to our machines

Nimish Sawant

nimish.sawant@thinkdigit.com

When someone mentions the futuristic Hollywood film, 'Minority Report', the one visual that sticks out, in that mélange of science fiction, is that of Tom Cruise standing in front of a transparent screen and using hand gestures to manipulate data projected onto that screen. Seeing him do all that without any input device, apart from his two illuminated finger tips, left a lot of us impressed.

Every year millions are spent in research to make input devices more ergonomic. What if there were no input devices? Imagine a world where you do not have to click any button to generate a response, a world where your bodily gestures work as inputs. That is the very idea that has given birth to the genre of computing called Gesture based computing.

Gaming giant Nintendo put it on the popular consumer electronics map with their fifth home gaming console – Wii. It used a wireless controller which mimicked your gestures and translated them into on-screen controls such that while playing tennis, you had to assume that you are holding a racquet instead of a controller and behave accordingly to play the game. This year saw the launch of Sony Playstation Move - a controller based gesture gaming tool and Microsoft Kinect which comes without any controller and has raised the bar for gesture gaming. In this article, we will not talk about gesture gaming as that has got a lot of coverage in the past.

From Reel to Real

John Underkoffler, the science adviser behind the Minority Report computer interface, showcased a working model of that system at TED in June 2010. His com-

pany Oblong has come out with a working model called G-speak that uses a mounted camera which tracks the user's glove as it moves in space. It can handle multiple users and has sub-millimeter precision, allowing users to collaborate on one screen simultaneously. Possible applications of this technology involve analyzing data sets, working on 3D models among other things.

While G-speak still requires you to use gloves to operate the screen, Underkoffler promised a future where you would need no gloves as computer tracking would enable mere hand gestures to do the work.. A researcher at MIT's Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence Laboratory (CSAIL) has improvised on this gesture based technology by hacking into Microsoft's Kinect. The controller-less attribute of Kinect has given birth to a lot of hacks which have been making news in the recent past. MIT engineer Garratt Gallagher used Kinect sensor to differentiate both hands and its fingers in a screen comprising of about 60,000 points. His system uses Kinect alongwith Libfreenet driver for interfacing with Linux. This graphical user interface and hand detection software has been developed at MIT to interface with the open source Robotic Operating System (ROS). ROS is a community-driven open source effort which comprises of a collection of software packages that help robotics research and development. The hand detecting software shows the abilities

of the Point Cloud Library (PCL) which is an open-source software package built as a part of ROS. The potential of this research involves controlling real-life robots with gestures thanks to the real-time interaction that can track hand and finger movement at a high speed of 30 frames per second.

It's all in the glove

The gloves that were seen in G-Speak are special and are fitted with sensors on the tips of the fingers, which help in tracking movement on the screen. MIT undergraduate student Robert Wang along with his associate professor Jovan Popovi has developed a system of using hand gestures to interact with 3D models using a pair of lycra gloves. Using only a webcam and a pair of lycra gloves with blotches of colour on them, the team has developed a system which can translate gestures made by the gloved hand into corresponding gestures of a 3D model of the hand on screen with little or no lag time.

The glove which has 20 irregularly shaped patches of 10 different colours is a definite fashion faux pas, but it works wonders. The arrangement and shapes of the patches is chosen in such a way that there is no collision of similar coloured patches. An algorithm to rapidly look up visual data in a database is another important component of the whole project.

After the webcam has captured the image of the worn glove, the software developed by Wang erases the background in such a way that you are only able to see the glove superimposed on a white background. This is then reduced to a 40 x 40 pixel size. Here on, to detect the hand movement the system looks up the data

<http://goo.gl/bhGY9>

Robert Wang demos the lycra glove interface seen below



Interesting links around ROS

<http://goo.gl/r2JoT>

Garratt Galagher's system in action

<http://goo.gl/DiBui>

Everything you wanted to know about ROS and PCL

<http://goo.gl/RSuhU>

A demo of the combined use of ROS and Kinect

<http://goo.gl/O359s>

Intel's OASIS technology creates an interactive surface anywhere. Seen here is a representation of a kitchen table

G-speak

John Underkoffler demos G-speak, the Minority Report UI. Go to <http://goo.gl/svTT>

Feature

base which has myriad 40 x 40 pixel digital models of the hand clad in the glove in a range of positions. Since lycra is a material that can be easily stretched, depending on the user's hand size, system needs calibration. The user has to place an 8.5-inch by 11-inch piece of paper on a flat surface in front of the webcam and press his or her hand against it. Within three seconds of doing that the system is calibrated.

5 KINECT HACKS YOU SHOULD CHECK OUT

<http://goo.gl/lgcZl>

Play Mario using Kinect

<http://goo.gl/HIzAm>

Controlling Lights via kinect

<http://goo.gl/3Nvub>

Using Kinect sensor in 3D environment recreation

<http://goo.gl/wygIQ>

Hollow Man revisited

<http://goo.gl/7zGcc>

Interactive puppy prototype with Kinect

The immediate application of this would be in gaming systems. But in a video demonstration Wang has shown the use of this system in 3D modeling. It can also be used by mechanical engineering students to study cross sections of machines by analyzing individual parts. Wang has further created a patchwork shirt which can detect the upper body movement with the help of two cameras.

Gestures on Mobile phones beyond Touch

The iPhone has revolutionized the way we interact with our phones now, ever since Apple introduced the multi-touch gesture on a touchscreen phone. We have seen lots of improvements in that department, with a lot of companies coming out with more touchscreen phones now, than ever before. Apart from voice commands, ever thought of how navigation on your cellphone would be like without touching it in any manner?

A team at Dartmouth college has developed a technology that will not require you to use your hands to operate your phones basic functionalities.

The EyePhone, as the name implies, uses eye tracking and eye actions such as winking to register inputs. This can work

with any smartphone having a front facing camera. The system tracks the user's eye movement around the phone's display using the phone's front facing camera and detects the eye-blink to activate the target application. The algorithm developed by the team comprises four stages like eye detection phase, an open eye template creation, an eye-tracking phase and a blink detection phase. This system can be used in applications like car driver safety, whereby the eye phone can be used to detect drivers drowsiness and distraction while driving and also for hands free navigation for quick tasks like accepting or rejecting calls, going to the music menu or messaging menu, etc.

An Israeli company eyeSight specializing in touch-free interfaces for portable devices has a solution for operating your smartphone without touching it, by using hand gestures. The said phone needs a front facing camera to identify the gestures. The solution – comprising of advanced image processing algorithms – tracks the gestures and converts them to input commands which are then used to control the phone and its applications. A simple wave of a hand over the phone can silence a ringing call or scroll through photographs or skip tracks in your media player. Now this may seem a round about way of doing things, but if we take this technology beyond cellphones it frees us from using input devices. This technology can be used in areas like personal navigation devices in your cars or operating your TV without a remote control or controlling your laptops volume controls without having to reach the mouse or keyboard. You could simply make a natural dismissive gesture to change the channel if an annoying commercial break comes up or if you are on some TV program that really bores you to death.


This is just a slice of the prospects gesture computing has to offer. In the near future we are going to see a lot of gesture computing based devices around us. Even chip manufacturing giant, Intel has recently announced a new research laboratory called Interaction and Experience Research (IXR) which has set its mission as creating the human input/output interface by the year 2020.

Gesture based computing will not completely replace the input devices like

GESTURE CUBE

Imagine arranging five iPad's in the form of a cube (four sides and one top) and each of the iPad capable of communicating with the adjoining one, with inputs taken from your hand gestures. This is the concept that Germany based company Ident Technology AG is working on. It is called Gesture Cube and it has five screen arranged on the sides and top of a cube. Each screen can interact with its adjoining screen and the user can use hand gestures to activate operations on the screens. This concept was showcased at the Mobile World Congress in Barcelona this year. The screens can show you weather updates, prompt you when a friend sends you a message, can play music and video and recognise devices like cellphones and wirelessly transfer data to and from it.



mice, keyboards or touchscreens but will definitely ease up the way in which we interact with machines. Apart from hand gestures, brain controlled devices will become quite prominent in the near future. And even though the current projects make use of one gestural interface at a time, we foresee a future where integration of various types of gestural interfaces like hand gestures, eye tracking will be the norm. This will just bring us more closer to our machines or better still, make machines more human, whichever way you look at it. 

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AWARD CATEGORIES

1. Batsman of the year

- A. Sachin Tendulkar
- B. AB de Villiers
- C. Andrew Strauss
- D. Hashim Amla
- E. Virender Sehwag

2. Bowler of the year

- A. Graeme Swann
- B. Dale Steyn
- C. Mohammad Amir
- D. Shakib Al Hasan
- E. Douglas Bollinger

3. Player of the year

- A. Sachin Tendulkar
- B. Graeme Swann
- C. AB de Villiers
- D. Hashim Amla
- E. Virender Sehwag

4. Emerging player of the year

- A. Eoin Morgan
- B. Umar Akmal
- C. Virat Kohli
- D. Steven Finn
- E. Mohammad Amir

5. India's domestic player of the year

- A. Manish Pandey
- B. Ajinkya Rahane
- C. Saurabh Tiwary
- D. Vinay Kumar
- E. Abhimanyu Mithun

6. Biggest hitter of the year

- A. Suresh Raina
- B. Kieron Pollard
- C. Shahid Afridi
- D. David Warner
- E. Brandon McCullum

7. Most stylish cricketer of the year

- A. Eoin Morgan
- B. Kevin Pieterse
- C. Brandon McCullum
- D. Suresh Raina
- E. Umar Akmal

8. Sexiest cricketer of the year

- A. Mitchell Johnson
- B. Brandon McCullum
- C. Lasith Malinga
- D. Kevin Pietersen
- E. Yuvraj Singh

9. Best IPL player of the year

- A. Sachin Tendulkar
- B. Jacques Kallis
- C. Suresh Raina
- D. Pragyan Ojha
- E. Amit Mishra

10. Best cricket advt of the year

- A. TVS Star City (Dhoni)
- B. Reynolds (Sachin)
- C. Revital (Yuvraj)
- D. Maxx Mobile (Dhoni)

11. Most powerful administrator of the year

- A. Sharad Pawar
- B. Lalit Modi
- C. N Srinivasan
- D. Gerald Majola
- E. James Sutherland

12. Most controversial player of the year

- A. Shoaib Mallik
- B. Suleman Benn
- C. Kevin Pietersen
- D. Jesse Ryder
- E. Ravindra Jadeja

13. Best captain of the year

- A. MS Dhoni
- B. Kumar Sangakkara
- C. Graeme Smith
- D. Paul Collingwood
- E. Andrew Strauss

14. Best coach of the year

- A. Gary Kirsten (India)
- B. Tim Nielsen (Australia)
- C. Robin Singh (MI)
- D. Stephen Fleming (CSK)

15. Most energetic IPL franchisee owner of the year

- A. Shahrukh Khan
- B. Vijay/Sidharth Malya
- C. Raj Kundra/Shilpa Shetty
- D. Preity Zinta
- E. Nita Ambani

Think you're a master at judging? Start voting now. If your list of votes matches the majority, you'll get a chance to win exciting prizes. Send your entries to Diamond Magazines P Ltd. X-30, Okhla Phase II, New Delhi-110020 or Log on to www.crickettoday.com

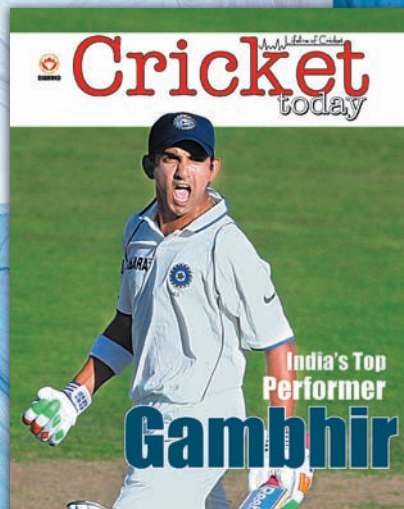
Write your answers in the box below along with your personal details.

1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ 6 ☐ 7 ☐ 8 ☐ 9 ☐ 10 ☐ 11 ☐ 12 ☐ 13 ☐ 14 ☐ 15 ☐

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Logon to the new Cricket Today website and enjoy latest news, live ball-by-ball coverage of all international matches, columns by cricketers and critiques, sports videos, picture gallery, in-depth statistics of cricketers, contests and much more.



The Prescription

The latest breed of handheld devices – tablets, have been glamourised by the iPad, and now everyone seems to want one. We give you the right prescription.

Harmanpreet Singh

readersletters@thinkdigit.com

Although the trend caught up recently, tablets have been here for quite a while. The concept of 'pen computing' started way back in 1980s, but slowly fizzled out due to lack of consumers. Then in the early 2000s, laptops were given a resistive touchscreen, that would swivel and close back, and roughly resemble today's tablet. But they never really compelled people to leave the keyboard and mouse combination.

The last few years have seen a large increase in wireless speeds, leading to the usual increase in our appetite for high quality media. The iPad arrived at a time when people wanted to consume videos in HD, games in 3D and web in all its glory – something the smartphone couldn't afford to do, due to limitations of screen estate and disk space. A flurry of manufacturers followed the iPad, to get a piece of the tablet pie. And so it was imperative for us to intervene, and separate the wheat from the chaff for you.

SAMSUNG GALAXY TAB

Samsung Galaxy Tab is one of the contenders for being the best Android tablet out there. Credit goes to Samsung, for keeping it light in weight and unnecessary customisations. So does it stand out among a galaxy of Android tablets?

The moment we laid our eager, dirty hands on this tablet, we left smudges on its glossy back and screen. A bad start, but the tablet has a near perfect build besides this. It is light yet solid, thanks to the high-grade plastic build. You can comfortably hold the tablet for

quite a while, though we would have liked it to be a few millimetres thinner. The screen is protected by the scratch-resistant Gorilla glass and has just enough bezel for a comfortable grip.

The first impression when switching it on was that the Android OS is much more stable on Galaxy Tab, than it was on little brother Galaxy S. The hardware seems well juiced and the device showed no lag whatsoever in UI or applications. The screen (TFT, not S-AMOLED) is decent, with good brightness levels.

The onscreen keyboard is little better than the stock Android keyboard, but presence of Swype in Android 2.2 helps.

Multi-touch and a good looking screen made it easy to love surfing on the device. Add to it FroYo's new Flash-trick and that almost completes the jigsaw. Flash-heavy websites take their toll on the device, it device handled 'almost' every site we threw at it.

The usual Google apps are accompanied by a few bundled apps by Samsung. Task Manager is the most useful of the lot, a feature that the Android OS still lacks. Reader's Hub is a one stop solution for reading newspapers, magazines or books. The bundled office suite is very basic, but seems enough to do minor editing on the go. Android 2.2's stock email application is good, with multiple inboxes and easy configuration for common mail servers.

The GPS navigation software is bundled by Google and works only in online mode, as it uses Google Maps service for maps. The lack of voice-guided, offline navigation might force you switch to a paid alternative, something people shouldn't need to do after spending ₹38,000 on a tablet.

Watching videos (upto 1080p) on the device is a pleasure, but the smudges



are a pain, especially in bright sunlight, where the screen itself does a good job.

The loudspeakers and bundled headphones churn out good sound, but no cable has been bundled for TV-out.

We often say, the magic of these new OSes lies in the app markets and the awesome apps they bring. Galaxy Tab has 'Samsung Apps' in addition to Android Market. At the time of writing, only one app was available in Samsung Apps: 'Need for Speed: Shift'.

The Market apps were all compatible with the Galaxy, even if they get a little pixelated while stretching to fit the 7 inch screen. Few compatible ones that we found by appending 'HD' to the search string looked good.

The tablet also has a 3.15 MP back camera and a VGA front camera. The video and photo quality is good for just casual clicking or video calling. The captured photos can be shared on Twitter, Facebook or Picassa directly through the Android gallery. Videos can be uploaded to YouTube equally effortlessly.

The battery life of the tablet is decent, unless you are a heavy gamer, in which case the device also gets a little warm. Also, if you are one to use your USB port to charge your gadgetry, you might as

Motorola Xoom?

Motorola's iPad killer might be called the Xoom; it's said to be based on the Android 3.0 platform

Palm Pad

Palm too is said to be showing off their WebOS powered tablet called the PalmPad

Tablet test

well stay away as the Galaxy Tab refuses to suck any sort of power fed through USB port, charging about 10 per cent in the three hours we plugged it in.

On a whole the tablet is impressive but could repel potential buyers with its hefty price tag. And could the smudge-loving screen haunt it? Not until we have an alternative.

DELL STREAK

The Dell Streak is a hybrid and, with its 5-inch screen, falls in the space between the current smartphones and tablets. If you don't think that the Streak is too large to be a phone, or too small to be a tablet, here is the rest of the story

When we unboxed the Streak, we fell for the device without even having powered it on: The piano black front, makes the screen look monolithic. The curves of the edges, are not just pleasing to the eye, but also make holding this device easier.

This hybrid (or tablet, in context to this test) indeed has very good handling owing to its slim profile and a beautiful matte finish on the back. The build of the device is very nearly perfect – metallic, yet light at 220 grams. Perhaps the only fault is a not-so-well-fitting back cover. Also, removing it switches the tablet off.

The colours on Streak are perhaps not as bright as on the excellent Galaxy Tab, but the detail is excellent, with great viewing angles.

For a capacitive screen, Dell Streak has a poor touch. Also, the screen recognises only two touches, as opposed to five that the Galaxy Tab recognised.

Dell Streak was criticised at launch because it forced the user to operate the device in only landscape mode. But thankfully, Android 2.2 upgrade allows the device to operate in both landscape and portrait mode.

The OS on the Streak comes with Dell's Stage UI, which follows the 'cards' concept like the new Palm 2.0 OS and the Blackberry 6 OS with the introduction of 'Stage widgets'. Each 'Stage' will hold information about one specific function of the device. Eg. Music, social and contacts. Running a finger along the bottom of the screen leads to a quick scroll between the various Stage widgets. Very handy.

The OS doesn't seem fully cooked on the device yet. Dell have added superficial customisation, they haven't added something really useful, like the Task Manager on Galaxy Tab.

E-mail, Gallery and Android Market provide the usual experience on Streak. The device relies solely on the Gallery app to play videos, which is probably the reason for very poor native video playback support. It played up MP4 files (up to 720p). The stock Android music player does a decent job. The bundled earphones are very light and comfortable, and come with three different sizes of ear plugs. The sound is balanced, though it is not very lively or loud.



You have to rely on Google's bundled internet-powered 'Navigation' app. 'Zinio Reader' provides magazines and QuickOffice can be used for basic editing of documents on the go.

The battery life of the device is decent, more because it has to power a smaller screen as compared to the other tablets. However, be careful if the earthing at your place is poor, because as we charged this phone through our laptop the touchscreen went berserk. Highly undesired.

So, is the beauty of the Dell Streak skin deep? Not with the latest Android. The biggest let down is the touchscreen of the device.

However, the Streak might attract many buyers simply because of its looks and form factor. After all, it is the only tablet in our test that might actually fit in your pocket. But then again, is it a tablet? Wouldn't a tablet buyer go for the 'intended' larger screen? We leave it to you to answer these questions.

ANDROID

Google, in collaboration with the other companies of the Open Handset Alliance, open-sourced and took forward the Android operating system, initially developed by Android Inc. The OS has grown in leaps and bounds since the earlier versions, and is still undergoing constant refinement on its way to becoming the king of mobile operating systems. The various major versions of Android have been 1.5 (Cupcake), 1.6 (Donut), 2.1 (Eclair) and 2.2 (Frozen yoghurt or FroYo). Android has its own application store called Android Market, which is one of the major reasons for the rising popularity of this mobile OS. Being open-source, the OS has our thumbs up, and has also led to the formation of a dedicated community of developers bringing out custom versions of the OS, which makes sure that you don't have to rely only on the manufacturer to modify the operating system to your likes (for more, refer to 'Rooting for nOObs', in December 2010 issue). Android 2.2 is the latest version of Android, with version 2.3 (Gingerbread) having just been released as I pen this down. Expect great things from this operating system in the times to come.

APPLE IPAD

If you have ever had a serious thought about buying a tablet, you probably already know all about the iPad. But has the tablet that started this mad-rush still got it enough to fend off smaller, faster challengers? We laid our hands on the iPad after we had thoroughly gone through the Galaxy Tab, Dell streak etc. We couldn't help but compare, compare, compare.

They don't build them as fine as the unibody construction of the iPad. All aluminium back and a 10-inch screen covering the entire front. The iPad is solidly built; too solidly maybe. The aluminium that provides this device a majestic touch also makes it heavy.

With newer hardware and more RAM, and the new pace injected in Android 2.2, Galaxy Tab clearly outperforms the iPad. By no means is iOS sluggish, but team Android has cut down loading times to negligible.

Hitachi develops 7mm drive

Hitachi develops a 7mm thick laptop hard drive; it's named the Travelstar Z5K500

Minecraft goes beta

The popular online multiplayer game Minecraft has left beta; price is bumped up to 20 Euros

The lack of camera and video calling might also put off some of the buyers.

But we have to admit that the experience of using a 10-inch tablet is completely different. Yes, you might be robbed of little pleasures like holding the tablet and reading a long book without developing joint problems (ok, a little exaggerated, but it's not easy holding the iPad). But, the screen estate helps many aspects, typing not the least. The large screen and a very well laid-out multi-touch keyboard make typing on the iPad much more pleasing. Even the copy/paste of iOS is much more usable than on Android. And we love the little magnifier that helps in positioning the cursor while editing text, something we have to do with a blind eye on Android.

Another factor that works for the iPad is the excellent apps from Apple's 'App Store'. Apple's is a closed system, where every app is scrutinised in a way that not everyone appreciates. But you cannot hide the fact that almost every 'App Store' app is more functional and refined than its counterpart on Android or other platforms. And you are way less likely to encounter problems due to compatibility issues.

The iPod based music app is one of the best in the category. The iPad now has our favorite VLC Player ported to it, playing almost all formats.

But the open-source Android still has some pluses over the closed iOS. Android's notification bar is the envy of many Apple users. And not everyone can put up with the nonsense of having to

use iTunes to transfer everything to the device. Overall, we recommend Android to the slightly adventurous people, and iOS to those who like stability.

Weight and size are major issues with the iPad. Consider this: Even Apple fanboys are eagerly waiting for the expected 7-inch iPad. Since Apple don't officially sell it in India, the price at which you land one could vary greatly. We got it directly from the US for about 34,000 bucks, but you might have to shell out as much as 50,000 to pick up one from the grey market. We strongly recommend against the device if you are at the wrong end of the pricing: It is not worth anything above 40,000.

VIEWSONIC VIEWPAD 7

ViewPad 7 is build solidly, but is a little on the heavier and thicker side. The back is good quality plastic with a glossy finish that loves capturing fingerprints. Although, we didn't receive the OlivePad for testing, we were surprised to see that the ViewPad and OlivePad seem to be the same devices.

The low-DPI screen has poor viewing angles, especially under bright sunlight. The touchscreen of the device is a disappointment too. Besides not being very responsive, it has issues with the multi-touch.

All four Android buttons made it to the tablet, the lights under the buttons are not linked to screen and go off in about four seconds. This really annoyed us, especially while thumbing the tablet at night.

The tablet has a very slow processor at 600MHz, and it is apparent while using the tablet. Also, we were dumbstruck when we tried opening a Flash site. This tablet does not support Flash, even though it runs Android 2.2! In fact, we did doubt if it could handle Flash.

The onscreen keyboard has, however, been changed by Viewsonic, and works better than the stock Android one. The document editor 'Documents To Go' is one of the better bundled office suites we saw in our tablet test.

The thing that miffed us the most was the lack of internal storage on the device, coupled with the oversight of the company to not even bundle a

HOW WE TESTED

While testing the build of the device, we consider the overall quality of materials, screen surface and buttons. Unibody and metallic bodies were given higher marks than plastic bodies. The tablets with a scratch-resistant screen scored more. Metallic/capacitive buttons were preferred over plastic/resistive buttons. Loose parts attracted a penalty. We tested the display indoors and in sunlit conditions, running videos and noting the picture quality. Text legibility was tested using the in-built e-book reader, in both indoor and sunlit conditions. We tested the performance by going through top 10 flash-based web sites for flash-enabled tablets (check out 'Unwind' on pg. 118). We also tried graphic intensive games (Homerun Battle 3D, Angry Birds: Seasons) to gauge the performance of the devices. Video performance was tested by running a video at highest resolution supported. Time needed to return to home screen abruptly from within these sites, games and videos was noted. For ergonomics, we considered handling experience, UI and interface, response and feedback of buttons, touch-screen response, and smudging of touch screen and body. We looked for matte finished backs, responsive and touch-friendly UIs. In rating the on-screen keyboard we considered the following parameters – layout and usability, effectiveness of word-prediction, multi-touch support, Swype or other techniques.

memory card. Personally, we wouldn't shell out ₹32,000 for this tablet.

SMC STYLEPAD AND INFIBEAM ANDROID PHI

SMC's EZ StylePad and Infibeam's Android-based Phi are brothers from another mother. Both are based on Android, but are not in the same bracket as rich-boys'-toys Dell Streak and Samsung Galaxy Tab. You have to compromise with poor build quality on the outside, and buggy hardware on the inside.

THE UGLY

Resistive touchscreens have a tough time on larger displays. Because the distance between the two layers that make up a resistive touch device has



Brand	Samsung	Dell	Apple	ViewSonic	SMC	Infibeam	Infibeam	LeAF
Model	Galaxy Tab	Streak	iPad	Viewpad	EZ StylePad	Android Phi	Windows Phi	LeAF 10 inch Tabloid
Price (MRP, ₹)	38,000	34,990	above 35,000	32,000	15,990	14,999	14,999	16,990, 18990 (3G)
Features (Out of 50)	36.45	35.28	33.05	33.68	24.23	22.03	18.98	29.38
Performance (Out of 50)	34.94	32.11	20.86	28.48	16.31	15.91	27.91	19.76
Overall (Out of 100)	71.39	67.39	61.53	61.59	45.09	38.34	34.89	49.14
Physical Specs								
Dimensions (L x W x H)	190 x 120 x 12mm	153 x 79 x 10mm	242 x 189 x 13mm	179 x 110 x 11.5mm	193 x 115 x 13.4mm	190 x 118 x 14.8mm	185 x 126 x 16mm	242 x 190 x 14mm
Weight	380 g	220 g	680 g, 730 g (3G)	375 g	330 g	332 g	396 g	750 g
Battery Rating	4000 mAh	1530 mAh	6500 mAh	3240 mAh	1300 mAh	1800 mAh	1800 mAh	5000 mAh
Expandable Memory	microSD	microSD	-	microSD	SD	-	microSD	microSD
System Specifications								
Operating System	Android 2.2	Android 2.2	iOS 4.2	Android 2.2	Android 2.1	Android 1.5	Windows CE	Android 2.1
Processor/GPU	ARM Cortex A8 1 GHz processor; PowerVR SGX540 graphics	Snapdragon 1 GHz	1GHz Apple A4 CPU	Qualcomm MSM 7227 600MHz	ARM 11 720MHz processor	ARM9 600MHz	TCC 800 MHz	ARM 11 720MHz processor
Internal Storage/RAM	32GB/512MB	16GB/512MB	16GB, 32GB, 64GB/256MB	512MB/512MB	2GB/256MB	8GB/256MB	8GB/256MB	2GB/128MB
Screen Resolution	TFT/7.0/1024x600	TFT LCD	LED-backlit IPS Display	TFT LCD	TFT LCD	TFT LCD	TFT LCD	TFT LCD
Multitouch	Y (5 fingers)	Y(2 fingers)	Yes (11 fingers)	Y (2 fingers)	N	N	N	N
Other Features								
Charging via USB (Y/N)/USB On-the-go	Y / N	Y / N	Y / N	Y / N	Y / Y	N / Y	N / Y	N / Y
Accelerometer (For auto rotate)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
Inbuilt GPS (A-GPS) support	Y (A-GPS)	Y (A-GPS)	Y (A-GPS in 3G version)	Y(A-GPS)	Y	Y		Y(A-GPS)
WiFi/Bluetooth/USB/Bluetooth Ver./A2DP	Y/Y/Y/v3.0/Y	Y/Y/Y/v2.0/Y	Y/Y/Y/2.1/Y	Y/Y/Y/2.1/Y	Y/N/Y	Y/Y/Y	Y/Y/Y	Y/Y/Y/2.0/Y
2G/3G (Max. speed)	Y / Y (7.2 Mbps)	Y / Y (7.2Mbps)	Y / Y (2.1 Mbps)	Y / Y (7.2 Mbps)	N / N	N / N	N / N	Y / Y (2 Mbps)
Camera Specs								
Camera Resolution (Photos/Videos)	3.15 MP / 480p	5 MP / 720p	-	3 MP / 480p	-	-	-	-
Auto Focus / Flash/ Front-camera	Y / Y / Y	Y / Y / Y	-	Y / N / Y	-	-	-	-
Max. video playback resolution	1080p HD	720p HD	720p	480p	1080p	720p	1080p	1080p
Performance Scores (So 10)								
Overall Build Quality	7.5	7	8	7	5	5	5	5
OS performance	8	7	6.5	6	5	3	4	3
Battery Performance	6	6	7	6	3.5	3.5	3.5	-
Overall Ergonomics	7	7.5	6	6	3	3.5	4.5	3
On-screen Keyboard	7.5	6	9	8	3	3	3.5	3
Social Networking	6	6.5	7	6	5.5	5.5	3	5.5
Video Playback Quality	7.5	7.5	6.5	5	8	5	6	8
Bundled Headphone Quality	7	6	-	5.5	-	-	-	2
Loudspeaker Audio Quality	7.5	5	-	4.5	9	-	-	3
Overall Camera Performance	6.5	4.5		3.13				
Display Quality	6.5	6.8	6.7	4.3	3.7	3.3	3.3	4.2
USB data transfer speed	4.69 MB/s	5.32 MB/s		2.78 MB/s	5.38 MB/s	5.33 MB/s	7.11 MB/s	5.31 MB/s
Productivity and Application Performance	6.5	6.2	6	6.33	4.3	3.1	2	4
Quality of market apps	8	7	9	7	4	2	-	3
Contact	Samsung India www.samsung.com/in rengith.n@samsung.com 1244-881-234	Dell India www.dell.co.in 1800-425-4050		ViewSonic Technologies India Pvt. Ltd. +91-11-42603195-97	SMC Networks www.smc-asia.com sales@smc-india.com 022-67419133	Infibeam.com customerservice@infibeam.com +91-79-4026 0260		Vestal Enterprises Pvt Ltd. www.leaf-reader.com info@leaf-reader.com 044-24342833

Steam deals

Steam, the popular game delivery service offered discounts up to 75 per cent on games leading up to the new year

Goodbye VGA

Large PC manufacturers have decided to completely phase out the old VGA connector used to connect PCs to displays

to be increased as the size of screen increases. And moreover, Android is not really made for resistive touch displays. One good example to prove our point are the menus. We had a really tough time scrolling on these tablets and often started an application or shifted an icon to a new place instead. Add to this the fact that regular use of resistive touch will surely scratch the screen, and you have a rather ugly situation. Also, the Android Phi is based on the ancient Android 1.5.

THE BAD

Another major concern with these tablets is that although the manufacturers boast of '70,000 Android market apps', it is questionable how many of them would actually run on these devices. Eliminate those that use multitouch. We could barely get 'Angry Birds' (our favorite game for Android) to run on the StylePad, with lag and texture problems. Further, the Phi has very limited apps as it's running an obsolete OS.

THE GOOD

We forget that these tablets are priced at half the price of Samsung Galaxy Tab. Yet, they have talents of their own.

Android Phi has an internal memory of 8 GB and a USB-on-the-go that Nokia's current flagship phone N8 boasts of. You can plug in your pen drive into this port using an adapter, and access it on the tablet.

The Style-Pad is a port heaven: A USB port that can be used to directly connect a pen-drive or a 3G dongle! Sealing the deal is mini-HDMI to take full advantage of the abundant video talent of this device. The device plays everything. MP3s, AVIs, MKVs, FLACs. You name it, and this device shall play without a stutter, without an effort. Adding further gloss are two powerful stereo speakers at the back. It wouldn't be a bad deal to buy this device solely as a 7-inch PMP. The StylePad is very good value for money.

WINDOWS PHI

Many of the problems that plague the Android Phi are also present in the very similar Windows Phi, running Windows CE 6.0: The screen and touch are bad. So

are battery life and build. But there are some things that work for this version of Phi.

The glossy back on Android version has been replaced with a rougher brushed metal finish, making handling easier. Although the touchscreen is bad, it works here because Windows CE is much more suited for resistive touch than Android. Video playback (up to 1080p) is nearly flawless. But what impressed us most about the Phi was the Office suite bundled with the device, which provides nearly all features that an office suite on PC does. We found it more feature-laden than any other office suite we tried on the other tablets (bundled or paid!). So, if you can master typing with a stylus, you have a perfect office companion in this device.

Windows CE is generally poor and unstable on the device. It had more than its fair share of lags and hang-ups.

All in all, we would rate the tablet almost on par with SMC StylePad. The video playback is similar, and the lack of a proper application market in Windows CE is covered by an excellent office suite. We highly recommend this tablet if you think you need an office on the go.

LEAF 10-INCH TABLOID

Leaf 10 inch Tabloid is the largest tablet we have in our 'economy class' of tablets. The tablet is very similar to SMC StylePad, with the same hardware inside. But although the StylePad performed reasonably, using the Leaf Tabloid is a pain. This is expected when a similar hardware powers a much larger screen and renders many more pixels.

The build quality is better than all other tablets in the same price category. The screen of the tablet looks decent, but has poor viewing angles.

We think the touch-screen of this device should actually be called a press-screen. Perfect for ladies with long nails, because nails are the only way to get it to work.



Like the StylePad, this 10-inch tablet is exceptional at playing videos and music. Any format at 1080p! And on this huge screen, it beats any of our tablets for its video playback abilities.

Although the device runs Android 2.1, you would never be able to take full advantage of the operating system due to the poor hardware and very poor application compatibility. The device is like a big PMP that runs a few apps.

The so-called 3G version of the Tabloid has a WCDMA based external dongle to be attached to the USB OTG port.

OUR VERDICT

With an overall score of 71.39, Samsung Galaxy Tab is the pick of the tablets, outracing the older iPad with its powerful hardware and a nearly-flawless FroYo. If you have a tighter budget, the SMC StylePad is probably halfway between the wheat and the chaff with a score of 45.09. As the scores suggest, the tablets have still got a little way to go before they even come close being a replacement for laptops.

Out of the 9 tablets we tested, we came to a single conclusion: The good tablets are very expensive, and the cheaper ones are nowhere close to being a replacement for your laptop. So if you have iPad-dreams, you might have to wait till you can buy a decent tablet without breaking your bank. Watch out for the launch of the impressive BlackBerry Playbook and the very-promising Adam from the Indian company Notion Ink (which is taking pre-orders as we write). Be patient, and these newer ones might be worth the wait. Lie back and relax, we'll be here to tell their tale. **d**

1978

The first GPS satellite was launched in 1978 and GPS was originally developed only for military use

Never get lost

Personal Navigation Devices (PNDs) are slowly, but surely, getting popular in India. More players are entering this segment now than before with highly detailed maps. We take a look at 10 PNDs which you should give a thought

Nimish Sawant and Harmanpreet Singh
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Personal Navigation Devices (PND here on) are inbuilt in cars internationally. In India, there are very few cars which come with a GPS system on-board. And the ones that do, are priced at a premium. Coming to these car owners' rescue are personal navigation devices. Navigation is not just about going from source to destination. Present day GPS devices are filled with enough data to prevent you from ever getting lost. You no longer need to memorise complex routes in a city you are not familiar with or call anyone to find out the nearest restaurant in a locality that is new to you. In all probability, your PND will have all that data fed into it. The improved GPS chipsets such as SiRF III and above that were seen in most of the devices that we tested have an ability to lock your position faster and hold on to it even in low signal areas. We got devices

from four companies such as Garmin, Blaupunkt, MapMyIndia and SatGuide.

FEATURES

Garmin nuvi 215, 715 and 1460

Garmin sent us three GPS devices from the nuvi series namely nuvi 215, nuvi 715 and nuvi 1460. Screen sizes varied from 2.5-inch for nuvi 215, 4.3-inch for nuvi 715 and 5-inch for the nuvi 1460. They came pre-loaded with detailed maps of over 600 Indian cities.

The user interface on all Garmin devices is quite intuitive. The home page has just two main options such as **Where To** and **View Map** along with a volume controller and **Tools** menu. Tapping the ascending bars on the top left hand corner will open up a detailed view of the satellite signal strength, whereas on the top right hand corner you get an idea of the battery life.

Garmin provides a range of options when you enter the **Where To** menu. For starters, its Points of Interests (POI) section has as many as 14 categories

such as food and drink, fuel, transit, bank/atm, etc. There is more depth in each of these categories such as types of restaurants, types of attractions and you can also enter your own point of interest if you are confused about which category it might belong to.



MapMyIndia Vx140

Go Home option is a decent tool. Feed in your address and never bother about getting home from anywhere in your city. The map itself has many areas which are easy to understand after repeated use. You can toggle between 2D and 3D views while navigating. Speed indication, expected time of arrival, turn-by-turn voice navigation, visual representation of upcoming turns, etc. is visible on the map screen. With the 715 and 1460 which support Bluetooth you can even make and receive calls on your navigator by pairing it with your phone.

In the **Tools** section you come across a menu called **ecoRoute** which is a Garmin exclusive application that helps you drive more efficiently, by saving on unnecessary fuel loss. It can even generate reports after your trip giving you a details such as fuel spent, money spent, kilometers clocked among others.

SatGuide Mio 200, C230 and 560

We got three personal navigation devices from SatGuide namely Mio Moov 560, Mio Moov C230 and Mio Moov 200. Based on the old Windows CE version 5.0, the three devices have the SiRF Star III GPS chipsets.

Mio Moov 560 comprises a wide 4.7-inch TFT LCD screen and has six main options on the home page including a video viewer, audio player, headset and mobile phone apart from navigation. In short, the Moov 560 can be used as a mini entertainment centre in your car. It has a strong trapezoidal body with a gray metallic finish around the screen. It comes with an SD card slot at the top



SatGuide Mio Moov 560

Brand	SatGuide	SatGuide	SatGuide	Garmin	Garmin	Garmin	Blaupunkt
Model	Mio Moov 560	Mio Moov 200	Mio C230	Nuvi 1460	Nuvi 215	Nuvi 715	TMC Travel Pilot
Price (₹)	15,890	10,299	7,990	18,850	11,500	17,800	13,990
Features (Out of 20)	15.96	15.18	15.6	12.13	10.73	12.97	17.25
Performance (Out of 80)	56.8	43.18	43.18	70.27	65.1	65.96	52.61
Total (Out of 100)	72.76	58.36	58.78	82.4	75.83	78.93	69.86
Features							
Physical Specs							
Display size	4.7-inch	3.5-inch	3.5-inch	5-inch	2.8-inch	4.3-inch	4.3-inch
Display Resolution	480 x 272	320x240	320x240	480 x 272	320x480	480x272	480x272
Display Type	TFT	TFT	TFT	TFT	TFT	WQVGA TFT	TFT LCD
Dimensions (WxHxD in mm)	139x83.9x17.9	98x83.4x17.7	90x84x24	197x86x16	97x71x20	122x76x20	122x94x20
Weight (in gms)	180	150	144	221	147	176	230
Data Card Support (Y/N)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Maps and Memory							
Pre-loaded Maps	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Ability to add maps	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
GPS Chipset	SiRFstar III	SiRF StarIII	SiRFstarIII	NA	NA	NA	SiRF Atlas III
No of Indian languages supported	9	9	9	1	1	1	9
Bluetooth Support (Y/N)	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y	N
Custom Points of Interest (Y/N)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Car Docking system provided (Y/N)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
Battery rating	720mAh	720mAh	800mAh	NA	NA	NA	2100mAh
Operating System	Win CE Net5.0	Win CE Net5.0	Win CE Net 5.0	NA	NA	NA	Win CE 5.0
Performance							
Driving (So 10)							
Directions	7	6	6	7	6.5	6.5	7
Voice navigation	6	5	5	7.5	7	7	6
Ease of operation while driving	5.5	3.5	3.5	6.5	6	6	4
POI quality							
No of POI subcategories	43	43	43	72	72	72	43
Emergency POI options (Y/N)	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	N
POI near custom locations (Y/N)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Ease of use (So 10)	6	4	4	7.5	7	7	6
Touchscreen response (So 10)	6	4.5	4.5	6.5	5.5	6	5.5

portion beside the power switch.

Mio Moov 200 is a stripped down version of the Moov 560 with similar aesthetics in terms of shape and build quality. It has a smaller 3.5-inch screen with widgets such as video and audio player and a picture viewer. It lacks Blue-

tooth support found in the Moov 560.

The Mio Moov C230 comes in a square shape with rounded edges and lighter shades of gray. There is a bright orange rubber power button on the top right hand corner with an on/off switch located on the rear side. You can add an antenna on the slot on the left hand edge.

The user interface of the navigation system is same for all three PNDs. The navigation page shows the map with six options such as Street, Search POI, Route, Naviset, etc docked to the base. The top left hand edge has an arrow pointing out on touching which

a screen slides out showing speed, expected time of arrival in one tab and the summary of the journey in another tab. On the right hand side you have a range of options to zoom in or out of the map, change map view from 2D to 3D, navigate to home and mute the volume.

Adding a point of interest is somewhat annoying and it does not throw up a list of POIs as was seen in the Garmin PNDs. You have to enter the city and then you will get a list of POI for that city.

MapMyIndia Lx130, Vx140 and Zx150 Deluxe

These devices are based on Windows CE 6.0 and have full touch resistive screens, which works fine because of the big buttons. The build quality of all the devices is good, with excellent rubber coated bodies for a great grip. Suction



Blaupunkt Travel Pilot Lucca 3.5

WAAS

Wide Area Augmentation System is an air navigation aid which helps the Global Positioning System with the goal of improving its accuracy and availability

GPS Devices test

MapmyIndia Zx150 Deluxe	MapmyIndia Vx140	MapmyIndia Lx130
16,490	14,990	11,990
16.87	16.43	15.42
56.41	55.44	57.17
73.29	71.87	72.58
5 -inch	4.3-inch	3.5-inch
480 x 272	480 x 272	320 x 240
TFT LCD	TFT LCD	TFT LCD
98.5 x 78 x 17	122 x 78 x 12.5	99 x 74.5 x 12.5
142gms	165gms	122gms
Y	Y	Y
Y	Y	Y
Y	Y	Y
SiRF star III	SIRF Atlas IV	SIRF Atlas IV
8	8	8
Y	Y	N
Y	Y	Y
Y	Y	Y
1600mAh	1450mAh	900mAh
Win CE 6.0	Win CE 6.0	Win CE 6.0
5.5	5.5	5.5
3	5	6
6	4	4
49	49	49
N	N	N
N	N	N
7	7	7
7.5	7.5	7.5

based stands are provided for all.

The Lx130 is MapMyIndia's most basic PND, with just a basic navigation app and multimedia features that were common to all the other models too. MapMyIndia's maps are undoubtedly the most comprehensive of the lot, with maps of 902 cities and house-numbers in 13 cities. The application allows you to cycle through various viewplanes, from the basic 2D to various angles of 3D. During navigation, a bar on top provides information such as speed, distance to destination etc. You can customise the route on the basis of factors such as speed of route, type of vehicles and road types.

Specific locations and points of interest (POI) can be found directly on the map or by keying in a search string. POI database is very comprehensive, with 11 major categories and numerous

subcategories covering everything from entertainment to commercial locations, and tourism spots to religious places. You can also save your favourite places, routes and 'home' address, with the latter helpful to get home with the one click 'take me home' feature. The Lx130 also allows you to play audio/video or view pictures and documents.

Turn by turn voice navigation is available in 14 languages, including eight Indian languages. The higher-end models by the company include Vx140 and Zx150 Deluxe, progressively adding a feature. The Vx140 allows Bluetooth pairing with your phone, in addition to all features of the Lx130. Pairing your phone allows you to receive and make calls from the PND itself. The Zx150 is the high-end device, which has all the features of Vx150, plus a Video-in port that allows it to be used with a rear-view parking camera.

Maps are preloaded on Vx140 and Zx150, while Lx130 has the maps on the external card. Also, the Lx130 and Vx140

have a 2.5mm audio out,

HOW WE TESTED

In order to test the personal navigation devices (PNDs), we drove around the city, checking for things like resolution of the PND, accuracy of points of interests, user interface, ease of use and overall user experience with the device. We selected a route which had lots of turns, roundabouts and roads which were surrounded on either side by trees. The idea was to check the accuracy in navigation with all different kinds of road situations which could vary signal strength of the GPS unit.

We laid more stress on the performance, but the features were also taken into consideration. Voice navigation was given importance and PNDs with support for Indian languages had an edge over others. We calculated the score with an 80 : 20 ratio in favour of performance. High weightage was given to the user experience with operating the device while driving and detailing in the maps. Add-ons like media playback was noted down, but we did not give much weightage to it.

as compared the much more convenient 3.5mm in the Zx150 Deluxe.

Blaupunkt Lucca 3.5

Blaupunkt, the car audio system giant, has a very attractive looking PND with a range of slots on either sides. Travel Pilot Lucca 3.5 comes in a black body with silver sides. The presence of volume controller buttons on the front portion is thoughtful



Garmin nüvi 1460

Nexus S in space

Google used weather balloons to send seven Nexus S phones 100,000 feet above earth to check its performance at that altitude

60 million tabs

Users who installed Google's Chrome for a Cause extension opened 60 million tabs between December 15 and 19 which raised \$1 million

as you do not have to go through map menus to adjust volume while you are driving. It has an SD card with Indian maps. It runs on Windows CE 5 operating system.

PERFORMANCE

Garmin PND's were the best amongst the lot. Voice navigation was quite good. Once the GPS location was locked, which did not take much time, it hardly lost the connection. The 1460 spoke out names of the street, while the 715 and 215 were not very good with street names. Navigating the menu of Garmin PNDs was quite easy as compared to the others. Wider screen 1460 and 715 were comparatively easier to operate from the drivers seat than the nuvi 215. The robust sub categorisation in the POI can be very overwhelming for some, but it is quite good. The visibility of navigational map from the drivers position is quite good and 3D mode gives you a map with the locations of buildings, banks/atms, hospitals etc.

Various details such as route overview, speed, changing views, etc is neatly displayed on the screen. Pairing your phone with the Nuvi 1460, Nuvi 715 was a breeze.

SatGuide PNDs such as Mio C230, Moov 560 and Moov 200 were devices which we found quite difficult to adapt to. Locking the GPS location proved to be an issue with Moov 200 and it

took ages. Mio 560 with its 5-inch wide screen is impressive as far as

navigation goes, but the problem lies in the user interface, which is very user - unfriendly. For instance, while finding a POI, we were first asked to enter the City's name before it populated its POIs. This seemed ridiculous as the GPS had already locked the location. Voice commands were decent, but the 3D view on the maps was nowhere close to Garmin's 3D maps. POI subcategories are quite exhaustive, but it involves a lot of clicks to get to your POI. The resistive keypad response is bad and while you are driving, there are bound to be vibrations which will result in a lot of misspelled words. This can get frustrating.

Blaupunkt had the same underlying user interface and OS as the SatGuide PNDs, but operating it was slightly better. User interface though is very boring to look at for such a good looking PND.

MapMyIndia (MMI hereon) devices were all very impressive on paper, but let us down with their performance. The lower-end Lx130 was perhaps the most consistent performer, with good lock-down and error-free navigation. However, the voice navigation on the MMI devices left a lot to be desired. For one, during our GPS-testing trip, the Garmin PNDs on the front seat were completely masking the puny sound coming out of the Lx130. And while we noticed the Garmin devices warning about turns a good 200 metres in advance, the MMI device usually instructed about 100 metres before the turn. The detail was also missing in the instructions. A "turn-left" or "turn-right" was all that MMI devices mustered at most turns. The "have a nice trip" and "turn right from the crossing and take the first left" of the Garmin left us thoroughly impressed.

Besides this, the Vx140 was very poor at satellite lock-down, losing connection the moment we drew it away from the window. The



Garmin Nuvi 715

locking performance of the high-end Zx150 Deluxe was the best in the category, but unfortunately, we couldn't get voice navigation to work on our faulty test piece.

WINNERS

Garmin nuvi 1460 emerged as the Best Performer in our testing with the nuvi 215 following closely. SatGuide's Mio C230 won the Best Buy, thanks to its sub-₹10,000 pricing.

On the whole we observed that PNDs with larger screen sizes were much better to operate than their small screen counterparts. The scores of the 4.7-inch and 5-inch PNDs proves that. The only differentiating aspect that separates the good from the bad is the user friendliness of the device. A good PND is one that can be used by anyone who is driving your car and requires faster adaptation.

In our tests we found that Garmin and MapMyIndia PNDs fulfilled that need. SatGuide should seriously consider redesigning the UI to make it more user-friendly. Bells and whistles such as bluetooth connectivity for phones, media playback are welcome additions, although we fail to understand the idea behind adding a video player on a PND. Not only can it be very distracting for the driver but we don't see a reason to shell out the extra money for it.

We would have loved to see a few PNDs which can take voice commands instead of manually having to enter them. Hopefully, we will get them during our next GPS comparison test with a more contemporary OS. **d**

BEST BUY
digit
JANUARY 2011



SatGuide Mio C230

Facebook Malware

Bitdefender claims one in five users on Facebook have malware on their newsfeeds

About.me

AOL takes over recently started up profile landing site called About.me

Bazaar

Canon EOS 60D

The fence straddler

After the excellent EOS 7D that introduced a host of new features, it was only a matter of time before Canon trickled this technology downwards, into lower-end bodies. The 60D is exciting because, like the lower-end EOS 550D, it features a lot of the goodness of the EOS 7D at a slightly lower price point.

The 60D is visibly smaller than the EOS 7D, and the top is lower, owing to a slightly smaller pentaprism bulge. The rubber coating on the 60D feels a little less meaty. The magnesium alloy frame is dropped for a more conventional polycarbonate body, and the LCD gets a polycarbonate coating, rather than the hard glass surface on the 7D. On its own, the 60D feels solid in-hand, definitely a lot chunkier than the EOS 4xx/5xx series of camera bodies. The buttons and keys on the body are well built and particularly the main dial.

The battery compartment is small since it holds an SD card, and not the larger CF variety. The battery is hefty, the same one as the EOS 7D, rated at 1,800 mAh. Canon states battery life to be over 1,000 shots, we found that clicking some 150 shots with flash used one fifth of the time hardly drained any juice, and the battery still showed 80 per cent charge - pretty good.

The LCD viewfinder is pretty good, in fact about as good as we've seen. The 1,040,000 dot display means its plenty sharp, and crisp, and minimal zooming is required



to check sharpness of an image. Incidentally, burst mode will have the first flurry of photos taken quickly, then, as the camera runs out of available buffer, the speed slows down till the buffer has written enough to the memory card to accept more data. The kit lens offers good sharpness, reasonable even in the corners, especially considering the lens is available for around `6,000. The 60D is slower than the 7D across the board. Live view is slower, toggling between image mode and video mode is slower with the display blacking out for a whole one and a half seconds. Focussing is also slightly slower, and in lower light, this becomes more noticeable. Where speed is critical to get or miss a shot, the 7D should be preferred. However, even with one Digic 4 processor less, the 60D is no slouch in its own right. Camera on to shot is extremely fast, and in less than a second, you can click off a shot.

The 60D is capable of producing excellent results, in fact the output of the 60D is clean, neutral and full of details. One

of the advantages of cramming 18 megapixels on to a smaller 1.6x crop sensor is the sharpness. The 60D produces very sharp images in good and mediocre lighting. There is a lot of detail visible and the high resolution helps. The tradeoff is usually lower performance in low-light, owing to high density of photodiodes, but the 60D survives this technical restriction rather well. Even in low light, and higher ISO's, images retain a lot of detail - it's obvious that the 7D sensor is working its magic on the output of the 60D as well. Even at ISO 1600, the 60D manages a lot of detail, with some smearing of detail happening in darker regions of the image, and with a bit of grain. At ISO 3200, the 60D leaves the 50D behind by a big margin, proving that a current-gen, 18-megapixel is a lot better than a 15-megapixel unit of yesteryear. If you shoot in RAW, you will be able to extract even more detail.

At Rs. 77,195, for the body and a 18-55 kit lens, the 60D is costlier than what we expected. It is a very competent camera, offering very good image quality and equally impressive low-light performance.

Specifications

Sensor: 18-megapixel CMOS
22.3 x 14.9 mm ; Focussing:
9-cross point; 3-inch,
10,40,000 dots; weight:
755 g; battery: 1800 mAh

Contact

Canon India Private Limited

Phone: 1800-345-33-66

Email: info@canon.co.in

Web site: www.canon.co.in

Price: ₹77,195 (MRP, Body +
18-55 Lens)

7.0
10

Features.....	8.0
Performance.....	7.0
Build.....	7.5
Value for money	6.5

450Mbps WiFi access point

A company by the name of TRENDnet has launched the world's fastest WiFi access point TEW-690AP which is capable of speeds of up to 450Mbps

Railgun becomes reality

After test runs of the railgun, NASA plans to send ships out to space using a railgun

Micromax Modu T

A unique impressive design and decent performance

Micromax has partnered with modu to bring the Modu T phone to India. A 'camerafy' jacket is provided in the box, an add-on snap-on that gives the tiny phone a 5MP camera to shoot with, along with a dedicated camera button. The phone is extremely well built, with a glass screen and matte black metal body truly pleasing the eye. The phone has a 2.2-inch resistive touchscreen. It comes with the Brew OS. It has a Sportify mode will give you music on the go, along with stopwatch, pedometer, and calorimeter, to give a rough idea of just

how strenuous your workout actually is, while giving you control of your music on the go. The phone also comes bundled with plenty of web apps, such as Snaptu, TuneWiki, YouTube, Flickr, Facebook, Twitter, and eBuddy.

Call performance was exceptional throughout, with good signal reception and call clarity in handset mode in areas of varying signal strength, and no dropped calls experienced.



Video playback is good. Battery life was not very good, with the phone lasting less than 24 hours with average use, a figure that drops considerably when using the Camerafy jacket's and/or flash often.

The phone's tiny form factor is sure to turn heads, and at ₹12,500 is quite a good buy for someone looking for a compact device. However, the lack of Wi-Fi is an obvious disadvantage.

Specifications

OS : Brew; Screen : 2.2-inch LCD; Camera : 5MP; No Wi-fi; Battery : 500mAh

Contact

Micromax Mobile

Phone: +91-124-4009 6000

Email: info@micromaxinfo.com

Web site:

www.micromaxmaxinfo.com

Price: ₹12,500

6.5/10

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

Razer Lachesis

The glam weapon

The new Lachesis is the latest slithering creepy-crawly to come out of Razer's wildlife sanctuary straight into our test center. The mouse features an ambidextrous design with a pretty typical Razer style look and feel except for the customisable LED insignia which can glow in three different user selected colours unlike the plain old blue found on earlier Razer mice. For in-game performance we tested it on three typical surfaces – table top, an entry level gaming mat, and an old Razer Pro gaming pad (which is a high friction surface). The mouse performs surprisingly well on table top and low friction surfaces. However if the weight of your palm is not com-

pletely pressing down towards the back of the mouse, you will most certainly notice a slight wobble at the front while clicking. The DeathAdder on the other hand feels more ground hugging. In terms of ergonomics, gamers who prefer a claw grip will like the Lachesis for its thinner form factor. The texture of the mouse is perfect for extended hours of gameplay. For non gaming usage you can change sensitivity (dpi) on the fly via two buttons located below the scroll wheel. The default dpi jumps are customisable via the stages option in the driver. The device features a really long sheathed



wire which is a very good idea. At a price point of ₹4,599, it certainly is a lot to pay for an ambidextrous mouse if you're a righty. The Lachesis is certainly a glam weapon with its customisable buttons and LED, but perhaps the Death Adder or Emperor might be more practical purchases.

Specifications

Sensor resolution : 5600dpi;
Sensor type: Laser; Weight :
128 g; Response time : 1 ms;
Max Acceleration : 50 g

Contact

Sashank Bhandaru

Email: sashank.bhandaru@
razerzone.com

Web site: www.razerzone.com

Price: ₹4,599

7.0/10

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

Slimmest, brightest phone

Rumours state that LG might show off the slimmest and brightest phone called the LG B at CES 2011

Phone with DDR2 memory

Pantech, a Korean company launches an Android 2.2 phone that comes with DDR2 memory; much higher performance expected

Bazaar

WD TV Live Hub

New and improved WD TV experience

Western Digital TV Live Hub has undergone

a complete redesign. The new WD TV comes much slimmer than its previous avatar and the user interface has completely changed for the better. The single colour background has been replaced by custom wallpapers with colour coded menus.

The WD TV Live Hub comes in an all black body and it houses a 1 TB hard disk within it. It has a brush metal finish on the top portion while the front portion houses a illuminating WD logo with a USB port on the right and power button on the left hand side. On the rear side you have a range of



connectivity options like component and composite audio video ports, HDMI port, USB port, gigabit LAN port among others. The remote control has a beautiful rubberised finish on the rear with a sharp projection in the centre which makes it much comfortable to hold.

HD video playback was flawless. Startup time of 5 seconds was the fastest that we have experienced. You can connect a wireless or USB key-

board to the Live Hub. You can listen to music while browsing through you Flickr photos. The HDMI 1.4 port can play back 3D content on a 3D TV which is a nice future proof add-on. We were expecting custom addition of video feeds in this new iteration of WD TV hub, but it's not available.

At ₹9,999 it is a very good buy for an HD streamer with internal storage and internet connectivity.

Specifications

Video Formats : AVI, MKV, MP4, MOV, WMV9, etc;
Ports : 2 x USB, 1 x HDMI 1.4, 1 x LAN port, 1 x Component, 1 x Composite, 1 x SPDIF; Storage : 1 TB

Contact

Anil Kukreja

Phone: +91- 97699 55175

Email: anil.kukreja@wdc.com

Web site: www.wdc.com

Price: ₹ 9,999

6.5/10

Features.....	7.0
Performance.....	6.5
Build Quality.....	7.0
Value for Money.....	6.0

Specifications

OS: Blackberry OS 6; CPU: 600 MHz; display: 3.2-inches, 360x480 pixels, 16M colours; QWERTY keypad; camera: 5 megapixels; weight: 161 g

Contact

BlackBerry India

Phone: 1800-4253-720

Email: sales@blackberry.com

Web site: www.in.blackberry.com

Price: ₹ 35,000

6.0/10

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

BlackBerry Torch 9800

A few nits prevent it from really shining

At first glance, the Torch is a handsome device. Decked in a combination of matte black plastic and burnished chrome trim, the Torch is all sleek curves and gentle slopes. The Torch is heavy, on account of a vertical slider form factor. The display is a capacitive touchscreen and at 3.2-inches is the lower limit of what we consider usable.

The Blackberry OS is clearly not intended for touch-screens. We had to use the trackpad in most cases. Owing to the touch-screen, the Torch 9800 has a very nice on-screen keypad that can be oriented in land-

scape mode also. Overall, we found the touch interface pretty decent, and it's always good to have multiple interface options, as long as you get them right.

Signal quality was very good in all the zones. The loudspeaker has good clarity, but its volume is on the lower side, although still much better than the Nokia E72. Handsfree clarity is good, although vocals sound a bit thinner. The Torch 9800 has a very decent camera, in fact shots showed decent colour and fair contrast, but good focus. We recommend the Blackberry Torch, but not at the MRP. At around ₹25,000, would be a really good deal.



Firefox 4 Beta 8

Next build of Firefox4 Beta has been released for the public

Opera WAC

Opera launches the WAC (Wholesale Applications Community) runtime for Android devices, which will allow developers create widgets

Apple iPod Nano

Tinier, touch support, but not so touching

The Nano is Apple's offering to those who want a really compact PMP, but with a display. The display completely dominates the device, for there's nothing else, other than a largish bezel and of course the buttons on the top. The menu structure is quite simple, and

using touches to accomplish things is a lot better than the click-wheel that we, quite frankly consider a pain. The aluminium enclosure is compact and stylishly designed.

The 240x240 pixel display looks sharp but its apparent that it's not a very good performing LCD. The top of the

device has three matte-chrome finished buttons – a larger display on/off-cum-start button, and two volume buttons. Just like the new Touch 4G, these buttons are hard. The Nano has FM Radio support, as well as an in-built pedometer.

The volume level is a lot lower than previous iPod. Still, the Nano has much better audio quality than most PMPs in this segment on the market, it's just that it's not as good as expected from Apple. The interface is fast, although USB transfers are slower than on the Touch.

At ₹12,700 for the 16GB version, we feel the larger capacity Nano is better value than the 8GB one. You get a tiny device with a touch-screen and a good sounding PMP for the money.

Specifications

Display: 1.54-inches, 240x240 pixels, capacitive-touch; storage: 8/16GB; weight: 21 g

Contact**Apple India**

Phone: +91-80-2574 4646

Email: indiasales@mac.com

Web site: www.apple.com/ipodtouch/

Price: ₹12,700 (MRP, 16GB)

**Specifications**

CPU: Core 2 Duo L9400 (1.86 GHz); RAM: 2 GB DDR3; Graphics: NVIDIA GeForce GT320M (256 MB); Storage: 256 GB SSD; display: 13-inch, 1440 x 900 pixels; weight: 1.32 kg

Contact**Apple India**

Phone: +91-80-2574 4646

Email: indiasales@mac.com

Web site: www.apple.com/macbookair/

Price: ₹98,900

Apple MacBook Air

Sleek, slick...more valuable less value

Apple's first MacBook Air received mixed reactions. The new Air comes in two sizes - 11-inches and 13-inches. We received the larger 13-inch version. On first glance, the new MacBook Air is lovely. It's damn slim and curvy in the right places. The edge of the palm-rest is not as sharp as earlier MacBooks.

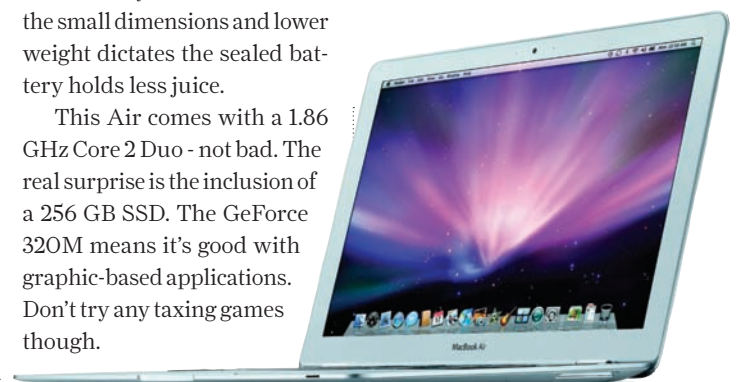
The keypad is a segregated design and exudes good feedback, and the keys, although not bevelled, have sufficient spacing to make up for this. Usability is good. The trackpad is pretty responsive and very accurate - much more than any Windows

notebook. However, for image editing, where fine grained control is needed, it's still deficient.

Apple has gone cheap on the quality of the panel. Colours look washed out, contrast is minimal, and the blackness level is very mediocre. While the small dimensions and lower weight dictates the sealed battery holds less juice.

This Air comes with a 1.86 GHz Core 2 Duo - not bad. The real surprise is the inclusion of a 256 GB SSD. The GeForce 320M means it's good with graphic-based applications. Don't try any taxing games though.

The price of ₹98,900 makes the Air an expensive proposition, and not value for money. This is one of those products you buy, when your heart rules your head, and your wallet, which is the fraternity Apple caters to.



7.0/10

Features6.5
Performance8.0
Build Quality9.0
Value for money6.0

7.0/10

Features7.5
Performance7.0
Build Quality9.0
Value for money5.0

Starcraft II demo

Blizzard finally releases a Starcraft II demo, months after the game released

GeForce 560 coming

Rumours of the GeForce 560 being launched in January have started spreading on the web

Bazaar

Lenovo IdeaPad G565

Contemporary design, executive style

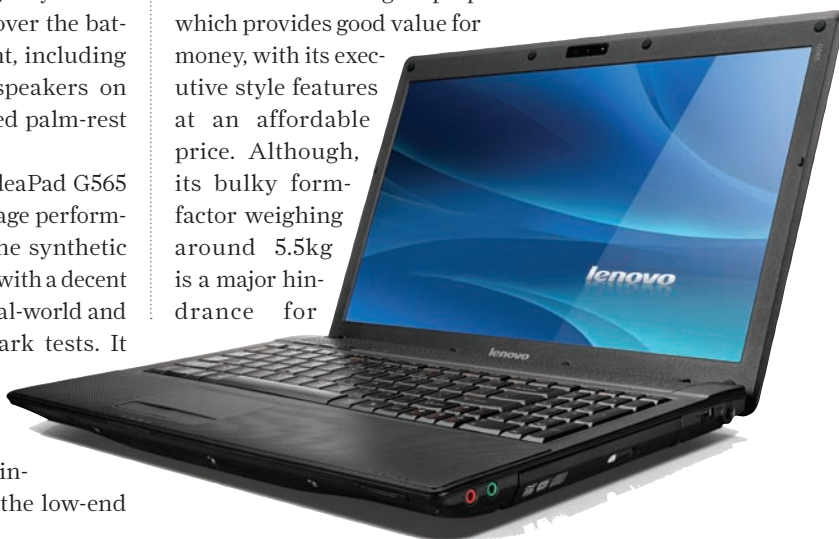
The new Lenovo IdeaPad G565 incorporates a contemporary design with executive class features. It is a pretty bulky laptop, weighing around 5.5 kg. The keypad is cramped for space, making way for the textured design over the battery compartment, including two integrated speakers on it and the textured palm-rest below the keypad

The Lenovo IdeaPad G565 delivered an average performance across all the synthetic benchmark tests, with a decent showing in the real-world and gaming benchmark tests. It showcased a rather ordinary battery-life (2 hours and 56 minutes), in spite of the low-end

hardware configuration. The overall score for 3DMark 2006 and Maxon CineBench test are decent owing to the presence of ATI Mobility Radeon HD 5470 in its hardware configuration.

The Lenovo IdeaPad G565 is a decent mid-range laptop which provides good value for money, with its executive style features at an affordable price. Although, its bulky form-factor weighing around 5.5kg is a major hindrance for

office goers and frequent travelers. However, it makes a good buy at ₹38,090 with its ability for casual gaming at decent frame rates and presence of executive style features being the major selling points.



Specifications

Processor: AMD Phenom II N850; Memory: 3 GB DDR3; Chipset: AMD 785GX; Graphics card: ATI Mobility Radeon HD 5470; Hard drive: 500GB; Display: 15.6-inch LED backlit; Screen resolution: 1366 x 768; Weight: 5.5 kg

Contact

Lenovo India

Phone : 1-800-425 2666

Email: pmatthan@lenovo.com

Web site: www.lenovo.com

Price: ₹38,090

7.0
10

Features	7.5
Performance	6.5
Build Quality	8.5
Value for money	7.0

Specifications

Screen size : 46-inch; Native resolution : 1920x1080; Backlight : LED Edge-lit; Ambilight Spectra 2

Contact

Philips Electronics India Ltd.

Phone: 1800 102 2929

Email: customercare.india@philips.com

Web site: www.india.philips.com

Price: ₹1,65,000

6.5
10

Features	6.5
Performance	7.5
Build Quality	8.0
Value for money	4.0

Philips 46PFL8605

Great 46-inch performer

The Philips 46PFL8605 looks beautiful with the glossy bezel, a matte - finish on the 46-inch screen, the TV base made out of glass and the proprietary Ambilight strips on the sides. The TV is slim and you can mount the TV very close to the wall thanks to the recessed ports on the rear side. Philips has laid a lot of stress on user specific screen setting with dumbed down elements like selecting better photo from the split-screen, selecting the preferred sound from three sources, etc. Contrast ratios are brilliant. DisplayMate tests were

somewhat disappointing though, as we noticed a definite tinge of green and red. Colour reproduction was fine. HD movie viewing experience was quite good thanks to the high contrast ratio. Upscaling of standard definition content did have some issues with pixellation. Ambilight LEDs

were very responsive not just in terms of reproducing the hue of the scene playing but also varying the intensity accordingly. The LAN port can connect to your network and play media files off your network which is a nice plus. At ₹1,65,000 we felt that Philips TV is on the pricier side.



Bazaar

mini ^{QUICK} INSIGHTS FROM INDEPTH TESTS

The Digit Test Centre receives hundreds of products every month. Each of these products is put through a series of tests, and are finally given a verdict. The final score is arrived at after considering a number of factors and evaluating them in terms of features, performance, value for money, build quality, and in the case of software even ease of use.

For better understanding of our ratings, here's a quick guide to our overall score

- 1-3 - Extremely poor product. Keep away!
- 3-5 - Strictly OK product. Not recommended
- 5-6 - Decent product. Go for it, but there maybe better products.
- 7-8 - Very good product. Highly recommended.
- 8-10 - Ground-breaking product. We've never seen anything like it before. A definite must buy!

Motorola's Honeycomb plans

Motorola is planning to launch a tablet based on the Android Honeycomb platform at CES 2011 in Las Vegas

GRAPHIC CARD



Sparkle GTX 580

Price : ₹31,000

SPEAKER



Creative D100

Price : ₹4,499

SPECIFICATIONS

Architecture :GF110
Memory Interface.....384-bit
Video RAM1536 MB
Memory type.....GDDR5

Frequency Range.....20 - 20,000Hz
Signal-to-Noise ratio>80dB
Bluetooth rangeupto 10 m
Weight1 kg

TEST CENTRE RATINGS (All Scores out of 10)

Features.....6.0
Its based on the GF110 architecture. Has a 772MHz core clock, supports 1.5GB of VRAM.

Performance.....8.0
Aced all the benchmark tests. Crysis Warhead gave 45 fps at 1920x1080 with 4x AA. FarCry2 gave 114 fps at 1920x1080 ultra settings.

Build Quality.....7.0
Has a concealed vapour chamber cooling mechanism.

Value for money.....6.0
At ₹31,000, it's the price you pay for performance.

Features.....6.5
Allows you to pair your Bluetooth enabled phones and other devices to stream music.

Performance.....5.5
Mids were quite good. We did notice distortion at higher volume. Guitar heavy sections were not very crisp. Bass was quite dull.

Build quality.....7.0
The trapezoidal shape with matte finish looks quite good.

Value for money.....5.5
At a price of ₹4,499 the D100 is quite expensive.

WE SAY

7.0

Sparkle GTX 580 literally sparkled in all the gaming benchmarks and gave better scores than the dual-GPU HD 5970 in some. For a high end gaming rig, look no further than the GTX 580 at present. The new cooler section design also helps in keeping the temperatures under check which is a huge advantage over the GTX 460 and GTX 470. Definitely recommended.

ALSO SEE:

- 1) **NVIDIA Geforce GTX 470**
May 2010
- 2) **NVIDIA Geforce GTX 480**
May 2010
- 3) **Zotac GeForce GTX 470**
June 2010

6.0

With innovative features like Bluetooth and support for AA batteries, this is one speaker that you can carry around with you. There are some flaws like dull bass and clipping of higher frequencies. The limited bitrate of Bluetooth devices does not lend to a great hearing experience. At ₹4,499 it is expensive and definitely not for the discerning listener.

ALSO SEE:

- 1) **F&D 700U**
Digit October 2010
- 2) **Mitashi PH-60Y**
Digit September 2010
- 3) **Creative T6100Y**
Digit April 2010

Nokia and WP7 rumours

Nokia is rumoured to be in talks with Microsoft about coming out with a possible Windows Phone 7 OS-based Nokia phone

Verizon to go LTE way

Verizon has confirmed that it will launch some Android based Long Term Evolution (LTE) devices at CES 2011

Bazaar mini

NETBOOKS



ASUS 1018P

Price: ₹ 20,999



ASUS 1015PEM

Price: ₹ 26,999

ROUTERS



Edimax 3G-6210n 3G Broadband Router

Price: ₹ 7,500



Edimax WP-S1100

Price: ₹ 16,500

SPECIFICATIONS

ProcessorIntel Atom N550
Screen Size10.1 - inch
Resolution 1024x600
Hard Drive250 GB

ProcessorInte Atom N550
Screen Size10.1 - inch
Resolution 1024x600
Hard Drive250 GB

Wi-Fi standards802.11b / g / n
PortsLAN, WAN, USB
SecurityWEP, WPA, WPA2
Dimensions(in mm) 102x69x16

Wi-Fi standards802.11b / g / n
PortsLAN, USB, VGA , HDMI
SecurityWEP, WPA, WPA2
Dimensions(in mm)189x116x32

TEST CENTRE RATINGS (All Scores out of 10)

Features.....6.0
Powered by a dual core Atom N550. It comes with Windows 7 Starter edition.

Performance6.5
PC Mark Vantage gave a score of 1743. WinRAR score of 518 kbps was much higher than the single core netbooks. Video encoding was a bit slow.

Build quality7.5
Sturdy black brush metal finish
Nice chiclet keyboard.

Value for money.....5.5
At ₹20,999 this netbook is decently priced. The battery life of over four hours is quite good.

Features.....6.5
It houses the dual-core Intel N550 processor running at 1.5GHz.

Performance7.0
Thanks to the Super Hybrid Engine, the netbook ran over six hours which was quite impressive. Trackpad supports pinch zoom gestures.

Build quality6.5
Overall build is quite sturdy but the chiclet keyboard seems cramped.

Value for money.....4.5
At ₹26,999 it is competitively priced for a dual core netbook with that great a battery life.

Features.....6.5
You can connect your 3G router modem via USB drive and use it as a hotspot.

Performance5.5
It's a limited range router. For the Wi-Fi test, it gave a signal strength of 73 per cent and a transfer rate of 1.7 MB/s.

Build quality5.5
Plastic used feels cheap. Has sturdy buttons though.

Value for money.....5.0
At ₹7,500 this 3G router is definitely expensive without the 3G router modem.

Features.....7.0
It can connect to a machine on your network and stream content to a projector.

Performance6.5
Wireless streaming of videos was great in Zone 1 and Zone 2. In Zone 3 you will notice heavy skipping and lost connectivity.

Build quality6.5
It has a sturdy plastic build with indicator lights in the front panel. dual frequency antennas.

Value for money.....4.0
The price point of ₹16,500 is ridiculously high.

WE SAY

6.5

Considering this netbook runs over four hours, it is ideal for professionals who spend a lot of time in transit. The aesthetics are pleasing and the chiclet keyboard lends itself to a smooth typing experience. File transfer speed was also decent at over 25 Mbps. The battery life is its strong point. At ₹20,999 it is a decent buy.

ALSO SEE:

- 1) **ASUS EeePC 1201H**
February 2010
- 2) **MSI Wind U130**
February 2010
- 3) **MSI Wind U160**
September 2010

6.0

Asus 1015PEM is a good performer and not very expensive. Do not expect a great HD viewing experience or major boosts on processor intensive tasks that do not make use of multiple threads. It gave a PC Mark vantage score of 1184 which is quite decent for a netbook. Pricing is also quite competitive.

ALSO SEE:

- 1) **MSI Wind U130**
February 2010
- 2) **MSI Wind U160**
September 2010

5.5

This is a very compact 3G WiFi router which allows it to be carried around and the rechargeable battery lets one use it anywhere as long as you get a 3G or WiFi signal. Great for travellers with a 3G phone connection. Only downside is that when used as a Wi-Fi router, it performs poorly if objects block the signal. It's best used within a 10 m radius. It is priced quite high specially since it comes without a 3G router modem and you will have to buy that separately which drives up the price even further.

6.0

This router is ideal for a SoHo setup specially for those who have to make a lot of presentations and have their machines and conference rooms in different locations. You can stream both via a wire as well as wirelessly. Remote control is good only for powerpoint presentations and toggling through images, etc. You can attach a mouse on the USB port and perform normal operations. At over ₹16,000 we feel you should go for this product only if you have specific projecting needs.

India No.1 in outsourcing

India is the top destination for outsourcing, but Phillipines and Indonesia are posing a threat with low costs

Wikileaks app gone

The \$1.99 unofficial Wikileaks app was taken off the Apple App Store – a sad day for leak lovers

PRINTERS



HP DeskJet 1050

Price: ₹3,097



HP LaserJet Pro 1025

Price: ₹14,999



Canon MG5270

Price: ₹9,955



Canon MG 8170

Price: ₹25,995

SPECIFICATIONS

Resolution.....4800 x 1200 dpi
Paper sizesA4, B5, A5, A6
InterfaceUSB 2.0
Weight3.6 kg

Resolution.....600 x 600 dpi
Paper sizesA4, B5, A5, A6
InterfaceUSB 2.0
Weight12.1 kg

Resolution.....9600 x 2400 dpi
Paper sizesA4, A5, B5, LTR, LGL
InterfaceUSB 2.0
Weight8.1 kg

Resolution.....9600 x 2400 dpi
Paper sizesA4, A5, LTR, LGL
InterfaceUSB 2.0
Weight10.7 kg

TEST CENTRE RATINGS (All Scores out of 10)

Features.....6.5

This is a compact colour inkjet multi functional printer using the low-cost HP cartridges.

Performance 6.0

The print quality was quite good but it took quite a lot of time for printing. Quality text printing took 45 secs whereas Quality photo print took 150 secs.

Build quality5.5

The build quality is sturdy but we found the buttons to be quite hard to press.

Value for money 7.0

At ₹3,097, this is a great printer, copier and scanner.

Features.....5.0

Compact colour laser printer with only USB connectivity.

Performance 7.0

Colour reproduction was quite good. Printing is fast, took 32 secs for a quality mixed document print and under a minute for quality photo print.

Build quality7.0

Has a very strong build with sturdy tray quality. The minimalistic design looks good.

Value for money4.0

At ₹14,999 the HP 1025 is expensive as it provides very limited connectivity options.

Features.....7.0

Supports Wi-Fi printing and can print CD covers. There is a brilliant 2.4-inch LCD screen.

Performance6.5

While printing text was fast, the mixed document took about 90 secs. Quality was decent on all the prints except photo printing on our test glossy paper.

Build quality 6.0

The tray quality is decent but we felt that the scan bed flap could have been sturdier.

Value for money 6.5

At ₹9,955 we feel this multi functional printer is quite decently priced.

Features.....8.0

Has a 3.5-inch touchscreen, Bluetooth and Wi-Fi support, automatic duplex printing.

Performance6.5

Text and Mixed Document prints were of great quality and were fairly fast. Copying was slower. Printing off the memory card and USB gave great quality prints.

Build quality6.5

It has a brilliant touch sensitive operational panel. Build is sturdy with great tray quality.

Value for money5.5

It is priced at ₹25,995 which is a bit on the higher side, but decent for the features offered.

WE SAY

6.0

The compact size of this multi functional printer is its selling point. Quality of prints is also good, but only issue is the slow printing time. Ideal for home use. But it does not offer much for photography enthusiasts. At the sub-₹4,000 price point this is definitely recommended.

ALSO SEE:

- 1) Canon PIXMA MP496
March 2010
- 2) Epson Stylus Office TX600FW
March 2010
- 3) Epson Stylus Office TX510FN
March 2010
- 4) Epson Stylus Office TX00FW
August 2010

5.5

This is a very good printer in terms of speed and quality. Absence of options like network connectivity, PictBridge support or memory card slot does not justify the high price of ₹14,999 and it may prove to be a downer for photography enthusiasts who want quick prints.

ALSO SEE:

- 1) Canon PIXMA MP496
March 2010
- 2) Epson Stylus Office TX600FW
March 2010
- 3) Epson Stylus Office TX510FN
March 2010
- 4) Epson Stylus Office TX00FW
August 2010

6.5

Picture quality is brilliant in normal colour prints, but we found printing on our test glossy paper problematic. It seems to support only papers of certain thickness. It is best to stick with Canon's glossy paper for quality prints as it seemed to give smudgy prints with our test papers. For imaging professionals the SD and Compact card slots are a big plus. And at the sub-₹10,000 price point it is ideal for home use as well as it does support PictBridge connectivity. Wi-Fi support and CD cover printing are added incentives.

6.5

It has support for PictBridge and has SD and CF memory card slots. The innovative features like touch sensitive operational panel, importing photos from Flickr are wonderful. At ₹25,995, this is a lifestyle product ideal for imaging professionals or photography enthusiasts.

ALSO SEE:

- 1) Canon PIXMA iP3600
January 2010
- 2) Canon PIXMA MP496
March 2010
- 3) Epson Stylus Office TX600FW
March 2010
- 4) Ricoh Aficio SP C232SF
March 2010

Did you know?

Every year in Paris, the big wigs of the internet world gather at the Le Web conference to discuss the latest trends in technology



Shoot-n-Share

Cisco Brings the Flip VideoT Shoot and Share Camcorder to India this Festive Season

Bazaar mini

LCD MONITOR



Samsung PX2370

Price: ₹ 15,300

PMP



Cowon X7

Price: ₹ 17,500

HANDHELD COMPUTER



Unitech HT680

Price: ₹ 52,750

PRINTER



Epson B510DN

Price: ₹ 22,999

SPECIFICATIONS

Screen size 23-inches
Resolution 1920 x 1080
Backlight LED Backlit
Port..... 1 HDMI, 1 DVI

Capacity 160 GB (HDD)
Screen size 4.3 - inch
Formats WMA , OGG, FLAC, APE, WAV
Video format support AVI, WMV

Hardware 520 MHz processor
RAM 128MB
ROM..... 1 GB
Dimensions 175 x 55x30 mm

Resolution..... 5760x1440 dpi
Cartridges..... 4
Network..... 100Mbps capability
Paper capacity..... 650 sheets

TEST CENTRE RATINGS (All Scores out of 10)

Features.....6.5

It is a 23-inch LED backlit LCD monitor with a matte finish on the screen

Performance7.0

The contrast ratio was quite good at 535:1 according to the Spyder3Elite. HD movie viewing and the gaming experience was great

Build quality5.0

Transparent bezel looks good. Screen holding mechanism is poorly built

Value for money.....6.0

At ₹15,300 this is a decently priced monitor for its performance

Features.....6.5

It houses a 160GB hard drive alongwith flash memory and has a resistive touchscreen.

Performance6.5

Sound quality was quite good and we did not notice any performance lag while playing video files. Daylight viewing is not very good.

Build quality6.0

Has a hefty form factor with a sturdy build. Placement of buttons is very uncomfortable.

Value for money.....4.5

At a price of ₹17,500 it is a bit on the higher side.

Features.....4.0

2D Barcode scanner. No interface software to manage a back end database on the device.

Performance6.0

Not user-friendly at all. Excellent bar-code scanner, reads codes even from a tilted angle. OS is also quite dated.

Build quality9.0

Compact and rugged unit, resistant to moisture and dust.

Value for money.....3.0

At ₹52,750, the HT680 is ridiculously expensive.

Features.....7.0

Network capability is useful in SoHo scenarios. LCD display makes operating a little simpler.

Performance6.5

Speeds are pretty decent for an inkjet printer. Took 30 secs for a quality photo printout. Print quality is decent for text and some images.

Build quality6.5

Bulky printer but with a pretty and unique design. Build relatively well.

Value for money.....6.5

Priced at ₹22,999, it's a pretty decent solution for those who need decent colour printing.

WE SAY

6.0

This is a good monitor. HD play-back was brilliant and we didn't see any framing or skipping. Buttons on the rear are a bit uncomfortable. Blacks were quite deep in darker scenes, but there's a slight amount of backlight bleeding. Despite the concealed design the monitor does not heat up.

ALSO SEE:

- 1) **Samsung SyncMaster B2030**
March 2010
- 2) **ViewSonic VG2427wm**
March 2010
- 3) **Samsung P2370MS**
October 2010

6.0

The Cowon X7 delivers great sound quality and video performance is quite decent. It can play pretty much all the music formats you throw at it. The Jet Effect has over 30 presets with four user-defined presets. But it is not as portable or light as other PMPs that you will find. With a 160 GB of hard disk, you can carry around your entire media collection with you. Some niggles are present in the form of poor swiping, bulky form factor, etc. It also has no Wi-Fi or internet connectivity options, or an app support.

5.5

Unitech HT680 (1D laser version) is a niche product, aimed at people who inspect and keep a record of goods on the go and find it inconvenient to carry a laptop for data storage. It has a dated operating system with no format support whatsoever. But the performance and features are dwarfed by the price. More of an enterprise products. Rates are bound to change depending on number of pieces bought.

6.5

Decent printer for office use. Speed of the printer is good, and you shouldn't have to face long waits. Print quality is decent for text along with a few images. Not the best printer for purely photo prints for sure. Price of ₹22,999 makes it one of the more affordable colour inkjet printers. Not a lot different from the previous model – the B500DN.

ALSO SEE:

- 1) **Canon PIXMA MP496**
March 2010
- 2) **Epson Stylus Office TX600FW**
March 2010

Anonymous cares?

The now infamous entity, now claims that the Mastercard and Visa raids were in "defence of wikileaks"

N8 to get a firmware upgrade

Nokia N8 is slated to get its first firmware upgrade in January 2011 according to Nokia India's update on its Twitter page.

CELLPHONES



Akai 3311
Price: ₹2,995



Akai Slim z
Price: ₹3,695

PRINTER



Brother HL 5350DN
Price: ₹15,000

MOUSE



LightWave LW-W12
Price: ₹2,400

SPECIFICATIONS

Resolution: 240x320; Size: 2-inch;
Battery: 1200 mAh; Camera: 1.3 MP

Resolution: 240x320; Size: 2.2-inch; Battery: 1000 mAh; Camera: VGA

Resolution: 1200 dpi; Print Buffer: 32 MB; Interface: USB 2.0; Auto duplex; Weight: 9.5 kg

Interface: Bluetooth v2.1; Battery: 2 x AAA

TEST CENTRE RATINGS (All Scores out of 10)

Features 5.0
Performance 5.0
Build Quality 4.5
Value for money 4.5

Features 5.0
Performance 5.0
Build Quality 5.0
Value for money 5.0

Features 6.5
Performance 6.5
Ease of use 7.0
Value for money 5.0

Features 5.0
Performance 6.0
Build Quality 6.0
Value for money 5.0

WE SAY

The Akai 3311, at its price, is a capable dual SIM phone that offers decent radio performance and a loud-speaker. The camera is quite bad, the battery quite powerful (1200 mAh) – so that's a good 24 hours of normal usage before charging.

5.0

The Akai Slimz is a decent performer, most noticeably lacking a worthy camera and EDGE! Style junkies will like the two bundled back panels. Overall a capable dual SIM phone. We faced erratic dropped calls and poor video performance.

5.0

The Brother HL 5350DN took 14 seconds for high quality text prints, whereas mixed document prints took 15 seconds. Prints are sharp, and there are no serious quality issues. However, the price is steep for a mono laser.

6.0

Interesting design, similar to the Microsoft Arc. It's comfortable for both hands, and has good grip. Scrolling can be a pain. Works well on mousepads, not on tables. Not meant for gaming, and a bit pricey – but cheaper than the Microsoft Arc.

5.5

MOTHERBOARD



MSI 880GMA-E45
Price: ₹6,800

HEADSET



Lightwave LW-500U
Price: ₹1,100

PMP



Zebtronics Zebmate 75
Price: ₹1,999

WEBCAM



Microsoft HD 6000
Price: ₹2,375

SPECIFICATIONS

Socket: AM3; Chipset: AMD 880G and SB850; DIMM slots: 4; USB 3.0 ports: 2;

Type: Circum aural; Microphone: Yes; Volume Control: Yes;

Display: 1-inch LCD; Resolution: 128x64; Audio formats: MP3, WMA, WAV, APE

Video Resolution: 1280 x 720 p; Image capture resolution: 2560 x 1440; Built-in face tracking

TEST CENTRE RATINGS (All Scores out of 10)

Features 6.5
Performance 6.0
Build Quality 7.0
Value for money 6.5

Features 6.0
Performance 5.5
Build Quality 5.0
Value for money 5.5

Features 5.0
Performance 4.0
Build Quality 5.5
Value for money 5.0

Features 8.0
Performance 8.0
Build Quality 7.5
Value for money 6.0

WE SAY

Competitively priced, decently designed and has USB 3.0. Both the NB and SB heatsinks tend to get rather hot. There's just one PCI x16 slot. Real life tests were slower than the MSI 890FXA-GD70. PCM Vantage = 7121, 3DM Vantage above 15000.

6.5

Overpriced for the performance on offer. Earcups are uncomfortable, and it's just another headphone with mic. Very average, and since it has a USB connector, it can't even be used with your gadgets, or anything with an audio jack.

5.5

A very poor performer and doesn't justify the price tag. We expected the bass and highs to be poor, but even the mid-range frequencies weren't clear. All tracks sound muffled, and the bundled earphones are terrible. We do not recommend this.

5.0

It is small and easy to carry. Solidly built and has a good quality hinge. At a price tag of ₹2375, the HD-6000 is advised to only those who have a connection speed of at least 1 Mbps to take advantage of the high video resolution.

7.0

Dual-core processor on phone

LG will soon launch Optimus 2X running on a 1 GHz dual-core processor with Android 2.2

Free calls to continue

Google Voice account holders in US and Canada can avail the free voice calling via Gmail till the end of 2011

Bazaar mini

PMP



Apple iPod Shuffle
Price: ₹3,200

LAPTOP



Lenovo IdeaPad G560
Price: ₹31,990

CARD READER



Tech-Com 36-in1 card reader
Price: ₹175

SSD STORAGE



Corsair F120 SSD
Price: ₹13,500

SPECIFICATIONS

Storage: 2 GB; weight: 12.5 grams; bundled earphones response: 20Hz to 20,000Hz

Intel P6100 (2.2GHz); 2GB DDR3 533MHz; 500 GB; 15.6-inch LED backlit, 1366 x 768

Card format: SD, SDHC, Compact Flash, MMC, Mini SD, Micro SD, MS-Duo, etc.

Interface: SATA II; Capacity: 120GB (111.97 GB actual space); Form Factor: 2.5-inch

TEST CENTRE RATINGS (All Scores out of 10)

Features 5.0
Performance 6.0
Build Quality 9.0
Value for money 5.5

Features 6.0
Performance 5.0
Build Quality 6.5
Value for money 7.0

Features 6.5
Performance 6.0
Build Quality 5.5
Value for money 7.5

Features 6.5
Performance 6.5
Build Quality 7.0
Value for money 6.5

WE SAY

The Shuffle is costly for what you get, and cheaper brands will give you a display for this price, with other features to boot. But if you're looking for something tiny and attractive, well built and great sounding, the Shuffle will satisfy you.

6.0

A feature-rich, low-end business laptop. Thumbs up for the eSATA and HDMI ports, and also the special embossed multimedia buttons. A decent buy for the everyday executive who needs a little multimedia.

6.0

The 36-in-1 card reader has about four slots which can support upto 36 card formats. We tried it with the SD, SDHC and mini SD cards. It does not provide great speeds, but gets the work done. And at ₹175, it makes a great purchase.

6.0

Has the SandForce 1200 SSD processor – better write speeds. 4 GB single file transfer tests: 117MBps read and 74MBps write. Faster than the Intel 40 GB SSD, but slower than Kingston's SSDNow V Series 64 GB SSD. A good buy.

6.5

EAR PHONES



Philips SHH 7810
Price: ₹1,150

GRAPHICS CARD



Galaxy GeForce GT430
Price: ₹4,800

FLASH DRIVES



Kingston DataTraveler Ultimate 3.0
Price: ₹4,059



Corsair Voyager GT
Price: ₹1,700

SPECIFICATIONS

Imp: 16 ohms; Max power: 50mW; Sensitivity : 96dB; Support: HTC, iPhone, BlackBerry, LG, Motorola

NVIDIA GeForce GT430 chipset, 1024MB GDDR3 memory, 1 DVI, 1 D-Sub, 1 HDMI port

16 GB capacity, USB 2.0 and USB 3.0 compatibility, Dimensions: 73.70 x 22.20 x 16.10 mm

16 GB capacity, USB 2.0 compatibility

TEST CENTRE RATINGS (All Scores out of 10)

Features 6.0
Performance 6.0
Build Quality 7.0
Value for money 6.5

Features 7.0
Performance 7.5
Build Quality 7.5
Value for money 6.5

Features 7.0
Performance 8.0
Build Quality 7.5
Value for money 5.0

Features 7.0
Performance 8.0
Build Quality 7.5
Value for money 6.0

WE SAY

Angled driver makes it a good set of in-ear. Mids are great; bass response is decent. Not a great Bluetooth headset – mic hangs too low and people find it hard to hear you. A slider volume controller is thoughtful, and it's a good buy.

6.0

Design is sturdy and heatsink does a good job of cooling the card. It's hardly noisy. Performance is a fair bit lower than the GeForce GTS450 cards. Price makes it affordable to everyone, but don't expect high-resolution high-quality gaming on it.

7.0

Performance is way better than a USB 2.0 flash drive. Transfer speeds cross 70 MBps (USB3) and (30 MBps) on USB 2.0. Excellent drive if you want performance and don't care about value for money. Expensive, but fast.

6.5

Its rubberised surface makes it very sturdy. Performance is pretty good – read speeds touch 30 MBps and write speeds peak at around 18 MBps for sequential sets of data. Random write speeds are slower at around 12 MBps.

7.0



Opera Mini Advanced Menus

You can enter special URLs in Opera Mini. To enter advanced menus, type:

- `config` – To open advanced (Power user) settings page
- `about` – To see detailed info about Mini version, build and other details
- `feed:list` – To show all the available feeds saved in Mini
- `server:reset` – To delete cookies stored on Opera's server.

Get rid of header and menu bar

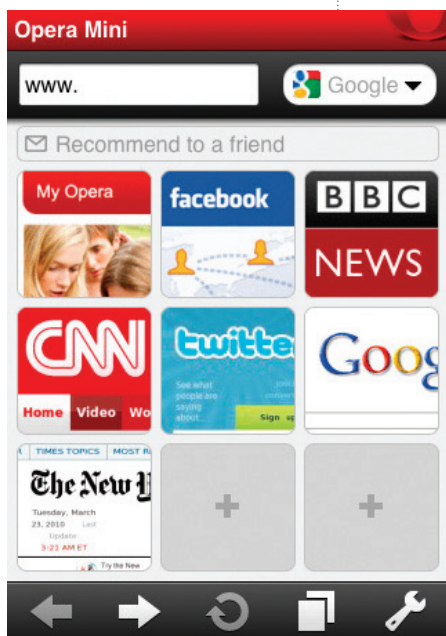
You can get rid of the huge header and menu bars on the top and bottom of the page. Go to Settings, and click on Full Screen.

Improve image quality

To improve image quality, go to Settings, click on "Image Quality" and choose "High."

Add / change speed dials

To change or assign speed dials in Opera, click and hold on the dial and then click on "Edit" or "Add".



Experience touch with Opera



Opera Mini.....	01
Foursquare	01
Gmail.....	04
Linkedin	05

Save images from web pages

Long press on the image you want to save and click on "Save Image".

Copy text

Long press on the screen, and click on "Select Text". After this, tap and drag to highlight the text you want to copy, and click on "Copy" after lifting your finger.

Password Manager

Opera Mini has an inbuilt Password Manager that you can enable and disable from the Privacy Settings. Enabling it will speed up your browsing by storing passwords on your phone, so you don't have to re-type them each time you go to a web site. On the other hand, the downside is that others will have access to your phone

and can even access your email or social networking accounts.

Adding bookmarks

Open the web site you want to bookmark and press [#] [5]. Now click on Add Bookmarks. To make a new folder, press [#] [5], followed by [1]. Alternatively, tap on Manage > New Folder. Now highlight your bookmark, press [1] or tap on Manage > Edit. Move the bookmark to the desired folder.

Saving a page

Go to Settings > Advanced > Set saved page folder > Others > Memory card > Desired folder > Save to set a default destination. While browsing a web page, press [#] [9] and the web page is added in the save page folders.

Render web sites for your handset

Enable Mobile view in Settings to optimise the page rendering for your handset. Some sites might look unfamiliar, but in general you get a faster mobile-friendly experience.

RSS/newsfeed reader

Add the address `feed:list` as a bookmark or as a Speed Dial, and you'll start receiving feeds right away.

Keypad shortcuts for non-touch phones

- [*] [1-9] – Speed Dial.
- [*] [up arrow] – new tab.
- [*] [down arrow] – close a tab
- [*] [left or right arrow] – cycle to the left or right tab.
- [1] – Context Menu
- [2] – Scroll Up
- [4] – Scroll Left
- [5] – Zoom
- [6] – Scroll Right
- [8] – Scroll Down
- [#] [1] Enter URL
- [#] [2] - Search the Web
- [#] [3] - Find in Page
- [#] [4] - Start Page
- [#] [5] - Bookmarks
- [#] [6] - History
- [#] [8] - Settings
- [#] [9] - Saved Pages
- [#] [#] - Forward

T9 predictive texting

Since Opera Mini is a Java application, you won't have access to features such as the T9 dictionary of your phone. But you can disable Inline Editing in the Advanced settings to switch back to the phone's text editor. T9 will start working, but you won't be able to type inline anymore.

Foursquare



Foursquare is a location-based service (or game as you look at it) for GPS-enabled smartphones that allows you to check in at venues and locations you are visiting. The game aspect arises from the fact that you collect points by checking in, which in turn unlocks



All you need is a GPS-enabled cellphone to experience Foursquare

special foursquare badges. This encourages competition between users to be the Mayor and to check-in at most of the venues. Users can also leave “Tips” about venues for everybody to see. These can act as recommendations or feedback for the venue either positive or negative. The social aspect of Foursquare is that you can announce and broadcast your whereabouts to your friends. Furthermore, you can integrate Twitter and Facebook to announce your location across all your social networks. As an owner of a Venue, you can claim a property via the web interface and start offering “specials” to your regular clients.

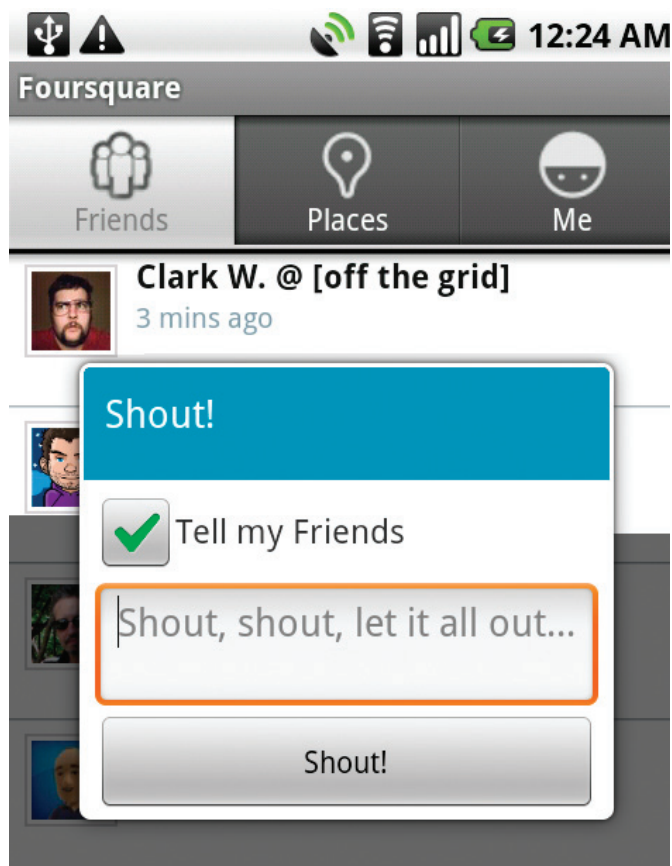
Get connected and get your friends online

As a lonesome Foursquare user, you're like a person who's trying to party alone. It doesn't

actually make sense till you have your friends or colleagues online on Foursquare. To truly experience this service, invite as many friends as you know. Once you have significant following within your circle, you can experience its innovative features to socialise, meet up, share tips, and find stuff to do when you're bored. The idea behind Foursquare is that you get rewarded for the things you do and places you visit, rather than for the people you are connected to. This way, there's really not much incentive to add random users. It's about sharing what you have been up to with friends.

Maintain privacy

Make sure to never add people you aren't really friends with, like many people commonly do on other social networking sites. Unlike Facebook, where the emphasis is on increasing



That's broadcasting from your handset!

your social circle, with Foursquare, it's all about sharing information and forming a group. This is because if you have the Foursquare app enabled on your phone and are sharing your GPS location, your friends will be able to see your location unless you properly manage your privacy settings. Therefore be careful who you are inviting to connect on Foursquare, you don't want to be inviting some stranger to meet up with you at some place you normally visit, or be stalked. Also, be careful not to divulge too much information about your whereabouts on location-based services such as Foursquare.

Personalise check ins

Simply checking in and tagging yourself at different places doesn't completely satisfy the motive of location-based social networking. Instead, you can choose to get connected to

your friends visiting different places via SMS or 'shouts'. You can also make use of shouts to organise meet ups or parties. You can use Foursquare as a connection platform to let your friends know that they have been invited to join you as well. To do this, simply send them a text message about the specified event and the venue.

Share reviews about the places you visit

If you are already connected to a few of your friends and colleagues, you should be receiving pop-up updates whenever you check into different venues your friends have already been to. These pop-ups are tips or reviews people in your network have left at the venue. Suggestions like “try the cheese garlic naan” from people you know are obviously more trust worthy than any faceless reviews you might read on city guides or the internet.



You can make new friends within the city you live in with Foursquare



If you're comfortable with Twitter, you'll find Foursquare familiar

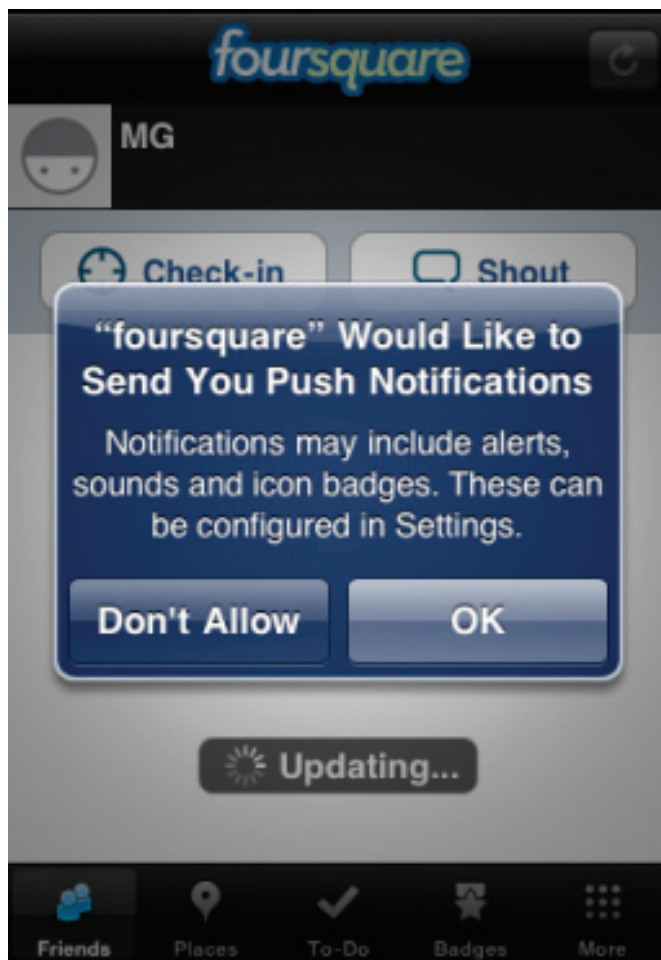
Now you should also plan on leaving tips and suggestions for the venue about whatever you like or dislike so that it can be of help to people who might be visiting the venue in the future or simply because it would act as a recommendation for them to pay a visit sometime soon. The tips and review pops up not only help users judge products and services but also enrich their day-to-day experiences.

Avoid too many notifications

At times, Foursquare on smartphones (the pop ups and push notifications which are free without a SMS cost being charged) can be very helpful every time a friend checks in or shouts. However, all these messages can get annoying if you

have a lot of friends (or one friend that checks in obscenely often). Luckily though foursquare lets you configure its ping settings from individual friends at foursquare.com/manage_friends. You can either choose to completely turn off notifications, or get a consolidated digest for the day or until further change in the notification.

Develop your small business by giving back to your mayor and frequent visitors. If you own a certain small business like a store or a restaurant or you are in charge of the marketing for a certain region, publicise the product and increasing the frequency of visits by people is your prime objective. The Foursquare service can be used as a tool to reward your frequent visitors to promote brand loyalty



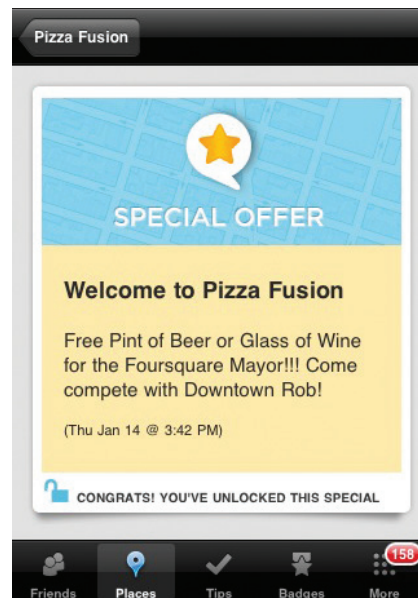
Depending on your location, you'll receive updates

and value. For example, if they become the mayor (the most frequent user who has the highest number of check-ins), you can extend a discount of a certain percentage or something like on your 10th check in the customer can get certain free goodies to promote your business.

Tag appropriately

For a web site, SEO is a must these days. Similarly with Foursquare tagging, you not only optimize your URL but also help your customers unlock certain badges associated with those tags. The more comprehensive (yet accurate) the list of tags on your business, the better for your

customers (keep it simple). The key to unlocking many badges



Get to know of exciting offers in your vicinity

on Foursquare is related to the tags attached.

Send mail as: **Rahil <anot.irky@gmail.com>** **default** [edit info](#)

Rahil Banthia <mail@rahilbanthia.me> [make default](#) [edit info](#) [delete](#)

[Send mail from another address](#) [Learn more](#)

When receiving a message:

- ☒ Reply from the same address the message was sent to
- ☐ Always reply from default address (currently anot.irky@gmail.com)

(Note: You can change the address at the time of your reply. [Learn more](#))

Gmail gives you the advantage of configuring multiple inboxes within the same address

Gmail

Send and receive mail from multiple addresses

A lot of you still use several email accounts and its cumbersome to go each web site and check for new mail. Gmail saves you the ordeal of monitoring each account individually. You can use Gmail as the hub for all of them. Go to Settings > Accounts and Imports. Click on "Add POP3 email account". You can even

[J] and [K] to navigate up and down within your inbox. Press [O] to open messages. Similarly, to reply to an email or thread, press [R]. To compose a new email message, simply press [C] rather than clicking on Compose. Starring important threads and conversations is as easy as pressing [S]. In order to remove a star, press [S] again. Finally press [E] to archive the message or conversation. For a complete list of keyboard shortcuts, press [?].

email was sent to both you and others and a double arrow (») means that the emails sent just to you. This way, you can easily prioritise the email you need to attend.

Sign out remote sessions

If you accessed your Gmail account from a cyber café or your friend's computer, and forgot to sign off from there, Gmail lets you sign out remotely. The bottom of your

has:blue-star or has:red-bang. To get the names of these stars, hover your mouse over their icon.

Multiple attachments

When you want to send more than one file as an attachment from the same folder, you don't have to individually add them. In the Select File dialog box, press [Ctrl] and click on all the files that you want to attach to your message and press Ok. Now, the progress bars of each

You are currently using 2515 MB (33%) of your 7527 MB.

This account is open in 2 other locations. Last account activity: 0 minutes ago at IP 210.212.160.101. [Details](#)

Gmail view: [standard](#) | [turn on chat](#) | [turn off buzz](#) | [older contact manager](#) | [basic HTML](#) [Learn more](#)

©2010 Google - [Terms](#) - [Privacy Policy](#) - [Buzz Privacy Policy](#) - [Google Home](#)

With Gmail, you always have control over privacy and can track intrusion easily

send mail from other accounts using your Gmail account. Click on "Send mail as" and set-up custom-from addresses for each account you want to send mail from. In fact with Google Apps, even companies prefer Gmail for their professional email requirements.

Keyboard shortcuts

Yes, Gmail supports an array of keyboard shortcuts for those frequent operations you perform using the mouse. Use keyboard shortcuts to save time. You can enable keyboard shortcuts from Settings and then use

Read messages sent exclusively to you

It's easy to be lost in your inbox, especially if you frequently receive email, or are part of several long discussions. However, you can sort email sent exclusively to you, with Gmail's search function. Go to Settings. Under the General tab, select Show indicators under the "Personal level indicators" option. Now the next time someone sends an email exclusively addressed to you, you'll find two arrows next to the subject in your inbox. A single arrow (») means the

inbox shows information about the time and location of the last activity on your account. Click on "Details" there to see whether your account is still open on another computer and click on "Sign out all other sessions" to close other open sessions.

Superstars

Go to Settings > Labs and enable superstars. You'll now have 11 additional options to star your messages. This even helps in better search, as you can use the has operator to search for emails with different types of stars, such as

file will appear together as they upload.

Search operators

Gmail search becomes very powerful with the use of search operators, or words that help modify your queries. For example, when you want a specific email sent by Gary containing a DOC file, type `from:gary has:attachment`. Similarly, if you want to find all unread messages in your inbox sent directly to you, simply type `to:me is:unread in:inbox`.



Filter your email

Gmail does not just give you a name@gmail.com address to you when you sign up. There are several other address variations, all of which get delivered to you. Just append an [+] symbol and any combination of words or numbers after your name such as changing garyqm@gmail.com to garyqm+forum@gmail.com or garyqm+temp@gmail.com. You can now add a filter to label and/or archive messages sent with the variations so that they don't clutter your inbox. You can conveniently go to the specific label to retrieve the email you sent.

Reduce annoying prompts

Quite often, we realise we don't need to compose an email to send short notes to our friends. In fact just the subject line is sufficient to convey the entire message. However, the underlying code within Gmail still prompts you to add body text and gives annoying javascript prompts. This is meant to prevent you from inadvertently sending a blank email. To do away with the error, just add EOM or (EOM) at the end of the subject line (short for End Of Message), and Gmail will send the message without the extra prompt.

Inbox preview

Gmail automatically detects commonly emailed links such as YouTube videos, Picasa photo albums and Flickr links, and gives you a preview from within your Gmail Inbox. In order to enable this feature, go to Settings > Labs and enable Inbox preview.

Control incoming mail

Go to Settings > Filters and set up filters to automatically label, archive, delete, or forward mail with specified criteria. You can do so based on any message.

Your message has been sent. [Undo](#) [View message](#)

In case you clicked Send inadvertently, you still have time to undo

You can select Filter messages like this from the "More actions" drop-down menu.

Undo Sent mail

Go to settings and choose the time delay before an email is actually sent, so that you can cancel sending and edit your message again. This is quite handy, especially when you realise you sent the email to the wrong recipient.

Select multiple messages

To select multiple messages in your Gmail inbox, just select the first message in

the series, hold [Shift] key and then select the last message. After this you can apply any action, like archiving or adding a label, to this whole set of messages.

Emphasize words in chat

Unlike other chat clients such as Yahoo! messenger, Gmail doesn't support text formatting options. However, it does let you add some basic formatting as you type, enabling you to emphasise words from the remainder text. In case you want to make a certain portion of

circle. It's an indispensable tool for establishing business contacts, searching for jobs, finding potential clients or simply staying in touch with old colleagues and associates.

Automatic updates on people searches

To search for a person on LinkedIn, all you need to do is perform a people search. Make sure you're not searching for groups or companies. You can make the selection from the drop down box. You can further refine your search by specifying the particular criteria such

your conversation bold, enclose it within asterisks. For example, type *text*. You can also italicise text. To do this, use underscores instead of asterisks as follows: _text_. Similarly, you can strikethrough your text by enclosing the text within hyphens. For example, type -text-.

LinkedIn

LinkedIn is the most popular professional networking site online. Unlike other platforms such as Facebook, or even Foursquare for that matter, emphasis here is on expanding your professional

as location, relationship, or industry you want in the left hand column. Now to keep track of any changes in this particular search query or the people listed at the top right beside the number of results, use the "Save" option. You can save up to three search terms in the default free version. Every time the search results change, you can use this option to notify yourself via email about the change or with weekly or monthly updates.

Send messages

With LinkedIn, you normally have to be a contact in order to send a message to the person. Similarly, if you want to get in touch with someone or contact a particular person via LinkedIn, the concerned person would have to approve you as a connection first. Otherwise you will have to send them a request and wait for them to confirm, only after that you can contact them through LinkedIn. Nonetheless, you can still send messages to someone who is not in your connections

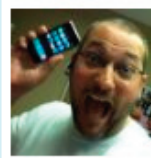
Settings
[General](#) [Labels](#) [Accounts and Import](#) **[Filters](#)** [Forwarding and POP/IMAP](#) [Chat](#) [Web Clips](#)
[Priority Inbox](#) [Labs](#) [Offline](#) [Themes](#) [Buzz](#)

The following filters are applied to all incoming mail:

Matches: from:Microsoft Do this: Skip Inbox, Apply label "Microsoft"	edit delete
Matches: from:codeproject Do this: Skip Inbox, Apply label "Code Project"	edit delete
Matches: from:Facebook Do this: Skip Inbox, Apply label "Facebook"	edit delete

Filters help reduce clutter in your Inbox

Craig Kendall ^{1st}
Independent Online Media Professional
Greater Denver Area | Online Media



Your first level connections are highlighted accordingly

list. These members are called OpenLink members. OpenLink members are premium members on LinkedIn who you can message for free. This is marked by a multi-colour circle next to their names. After searching for people, click "OpenLink Members Only" to filter your searches.

Link to Twitter

You can post all your LinkedIn updates onto Twitter by just selecting the twitter option beside the Share button or the other way around by giving your LinkedIn account access to Twitter. Similarly you can add multiple twitter accounts to your LinkedIn profile and every time you tweet you can choose to post the same update on LinkedIn either directly or



Share an insight, article or idea

Attach a link



Share

You can put up a status message similar to Twitter or Gmail

by using an extra hash tag in the post like #in.

Have your name show up

By default in LinkedIn when you view or access another person's profile it'll show up on that person's profile but will only be visible as "Someone in some position from some area". It will not be direct to protect your privacy, yet if the person does know you he might be able to figure out who you are from the information given. You can

Who's Viewed Your Profile?

15 Your profile has been viewed by 15 people in the past 90 days.

26 You have shown up in search results 26 times in the past 90 days.

For full details on who viewed your profile, opt for the paid version

choose to be completely visible and let your name appear on his Profile Stats, if you want

people to know you've been viewing their profile. Just go to your "Settings" by hovering over your name on the top left corner and click 'Settings'. Under Privacy Settings, click "Profile Views." Change the default to "Show my name and headline." When your network

views their "Who's viewed my profile?" on their home page, instead of "Someone;" you're name and headline will appear.

Twitter Settings

Account:

nashpd [Remove]

+ Add another Twitter account

Display your Twitter account on your LinkedIn profile

- ☒ Yes, visible to anyone
- ☐ No, do not display on my profile

Share your tweets in your LinkedIn status

- ☐ Yes, share all tweets
- ☒ Share only tweets that contain #in
ex: "Working on a new blog post about increasing meeting productivity. #in"

Tweet display

- ☒ Show rich link display where possible (picture, page title, and short description).

Example with rich link display



Allen Blue This is worth a read. <http://lnkd.in/htgyuil> via Twitter

How Social Media Can Effect Real Social and Government Change mashable.com

Craig Newmark is the founder of Craigslist. He can be found on Twitter as @craignewmark and blogs at cnewmark.com. People have always used...

3 hours ago · Like · Comment · Reply privately · Share

Title and Source

Short description

Turn off profile updates

Generally unlike other social networks, it is accepted that once you have your profile setup changes in terms of your profile are not very often. Changes only happen when you start or end a job profile. Also if you keep chipping away at your profile, every time you update your profile and save it, your entire network gets notified. You might be cluttering up your network's stream of updates and also be in the risk of seeming fake. You can choose to disable your profile updates though. Just go to your "Profile and Status Updates" settings under 'Privacy settings' under the Settings menu and check "No, do not notify anyone and

You can set several parameters for linking with Twitter



You can get partial details in the free version of LinkedIn

do not include me in company updates.” When you’re done working on your profile, you can go back and change this to “Yes,” assuming you want to show your network recommendations that you received as well as other updates you make to your profile at a later date.

Knowledge sharing

What many people fail to realise about LinkedIn is that it is a great platform to ask and answer questions, about different industries, jobs and other career related questions. Being active in the questions section also helps you get notices in your particular niche or field. Always remember to check the profile of the person whose question you are answering. You don’t want to waste time on a spam profile. Also use the advance search to check if your question or a similar one has already been answered before posting a question.

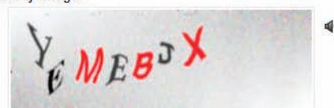
Export LinkedIn Connections

If you would like to back up your LinkedIn connections to Microsoft Outlook, Outlook Express, Yahoo! Address Book, or Mac OS Address Book, please select your application and file type from the menu below, then click “Export.”

Export to:

Microsoft Outlook (.CSV file)

Security image:



Please enter the text you see above. Try a different image.

[Export](#) or [Cancel](#)

Instructions for importing the newly exported file to:

Microsoft Outlook
Outlook Express
Yahoo! Mail
Mac OS X Address Book

You can export your LinkedIn connections as a CSV file

Export connections

It is always good to back up all your important connections that you have amassed over time on LinkedIn. Go to Contacts from the header toolbar. At the bottom right of your ‘My Connections’ window, you will find an option to “Export Connections”. You can choose to export the connections as a CSV file and import them into

your preferred address book like Outlook or even as VCards for your mobile phone.

LinkedIn Learning Center

You can notice that there are a multitude at the bottom of every page or most menus you’ll be able to see lots of links. The first row of links has “LinkedIn Learning Center.” Click it. You’ll find tons of neat arti-

cles. Under “Training Resources,” you’ll find free e-learning modules and webinars.

Popular opinion about you

LinkedIn has an internal application “Company Buzz” that keeps track of Twitter about all the companies that are listed on your profile. To activate “Company Buzz” or other applications within LinkedIn just go to “Applications” from the header menu. You might have to click on more and select ‘Get More Applications’. Install “Company Buzz.” Now in options, type your search terms and click “Follow Topic” or select the companies already listed from your profile on the left side. Twitter will return your search results instantly. Once activated, the applications also

[Answers Home](#)

[Advanced Answers Search](#)

[My Q&A](#)

[Ask a Question](#)

[Answer Questions](#)

Ask a Question

Get answers from your connections and experts in your network.

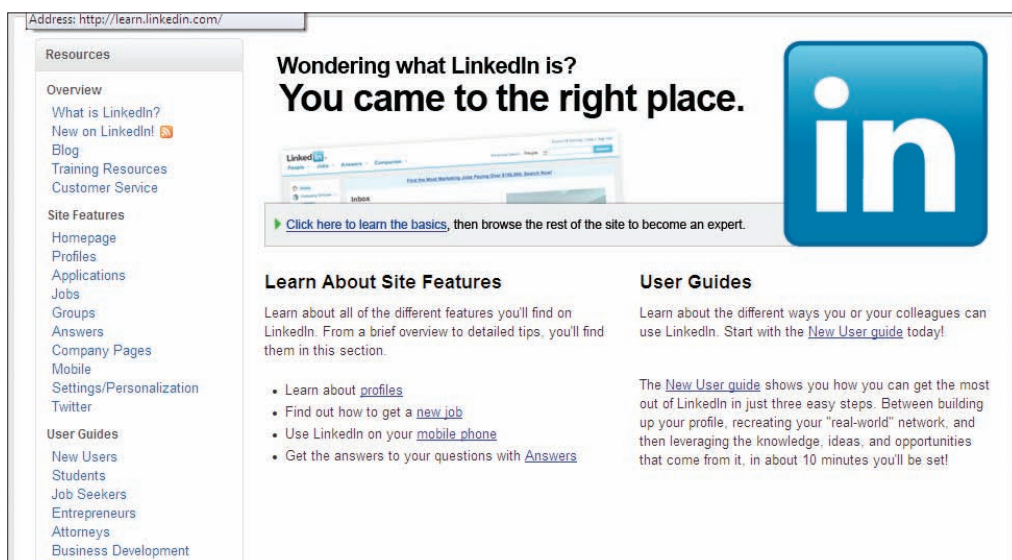
[Next](#)

Answer Questions

Recommended categories for you:

- [Writing and Editing](#)

LinkedIn facilitates knowledge sharing with its question and answers service

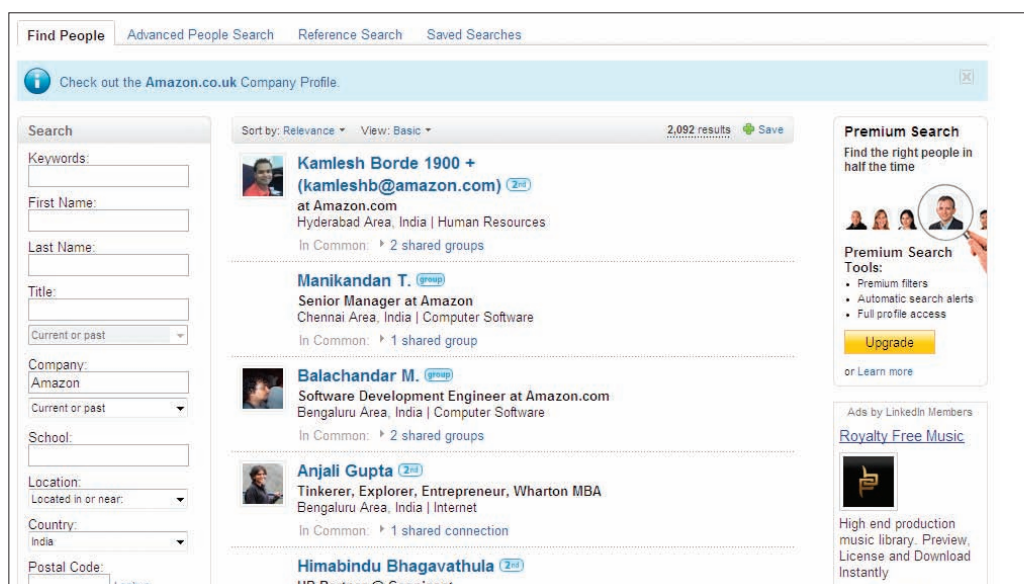


For more on LinkedIn, go to the resources page. There are useful training resources you'll find here

create an information box with the latest updates on your home page for easy access.

The power of Groups

Even if people are not your first-level connections, you can contact most of them if you share the same Group. This is just one of the several advantages of joining groups. All you need to do if you need to contact a certain person who you don't have a connection with is to get access to a group he or she belongs to. Similarly, you could seek

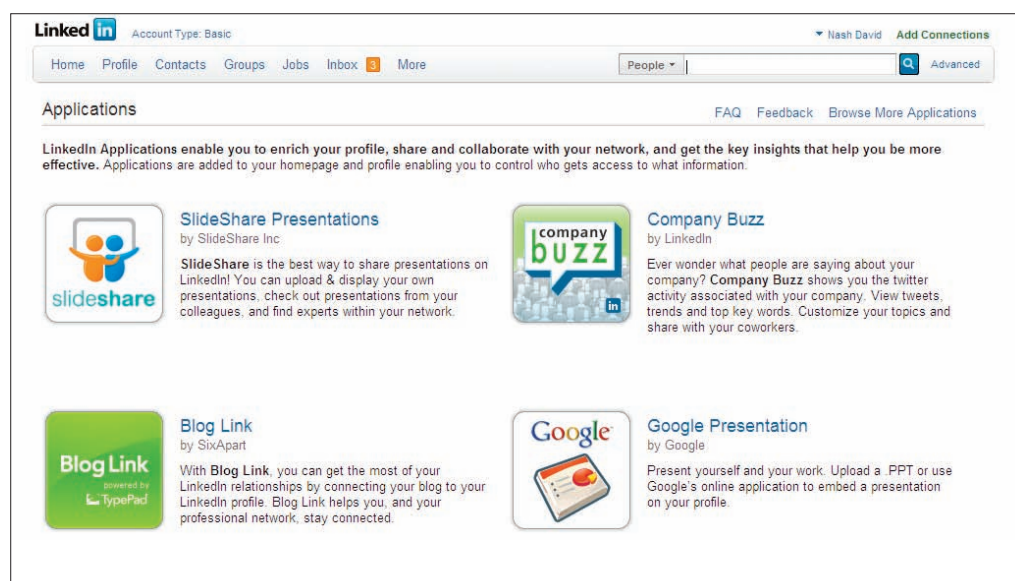


advice and opinions from fellow members of a group.

Build a resume

You can build a complete printable resume with just a few clicks on LinkedIn. Also if you want to send a person your information and if that person cannot access LinkedIn, you could just mail him / her a PDF file. On your profile you can find three buttons on the right side of your screen. The print icon prints your resume.

Finding people using Advanced Search



You'll be surprised at the connections you could make by searching by company names. The search results are sorted by connection levels

First search for a particular company in the "Search People" field and then you can narrow down your results by using the advanced search area on the left side of the search page. Sort the results by the Relationship column. Now you can figure out how to reach a second Degree contact by clicking and looking at all the "Shared Connections" under that particular name. **d**

LinkedIn allows gadgets and widgets similar to Facebook

MS Security Essentials 2

Microsoft launches updated version of their security solution for the Windows operating system; heuristic scanning a key feature

Opera 11

The latest stable release of Opera took place in December; new features include extension support and tab stacking

Hardware, Software, Networking, Hacking queries

There's no question we don't have an answer for...

🔗 Networking server with six PCs

I want to setup a network and enable internet sharing between my IBM X3400, Intel Xeon Server with Linux, and six additional PCs with Windows XP. Please tell me how to do it, or suggest other sources.

Hemant Khubchandani

🔗 All you need to network the PCs together is a network switch. Look for a wired router with at least 8 ports.

🔗 Facebook account hacked

My Facebook account (also linked to my Gmail account) was hacked. I've now forgotten my Gmail account password. I have some information in my Gmail and Facebook accounts. I do remember one out of two security questions from Gmail.

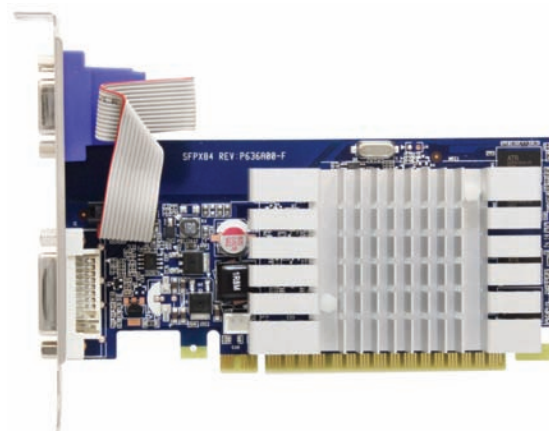
Prince Kapoor

🔗 There is little that we can do to help you retrieve the password. If your account has been hacked, it's also possible that the user has changed your current password. You can try contacting Facebook or Gmail to see if they can help you.

🔗 Confusion about connectors

I recently bought a Gigabyte P55A UD3P motherboard. I have an old Samsung 17-inch Syncmaster 750s CRT monitor that has a 15-pin mini D-sub port (VGA). The motherboard doesn't have a mini VGA female port. Do I need to use an adapter/card/cable to connect the monitor to the motherboard? The motherboard has one LPT parallel port header and COM serial port header internally. Can I get a mini VGA port that can be connected to any one of these port headers? Can I use VGA to USB adapter or do I use VGA PCI/PCIEx card or PCI graphics card? What is the cost of other long lasting and have quality options?

Dev



The GeForce 8400GS is a basic graphics card for most desktop purposes

🔗 The Intel P55 chipset does not include an integrated graphics solution. There won't be any ports on the motherboard that will let you to connect it to a monitor. The easiest solution is to buy a graphics card. If you won't be playing games on your PC, a basic entry-level graphics card such as the GeForce 8400GS or 9400GT will do. Look for one from a brand such as ZOTAC, XFX or ASUS. The price will be under ₹2,000. You might need a DVI to VGA converter for your CRT monitor as well.

🔗 Best OS for my system

My PC configuration is as follows. Motherboard: Intel DG35EC, Processor: Intel Core 2 Duo 2.93 GHz, 2 GB DDR 2 RAM, 500 GB HDD Seagate. I want to choose an operating system that will be compatible with most programs and will run very well on my system. I also want to buy a portable hard disk that should be approximately 160 GB. My budget is ₹1,000, but I can extend it to ₹1,500.

Also, I want a good recovery software that recovers all deleted files.

Sumit

🔗 Windows 7 is currently the most stable operating system that you can

use on your PC. It supports majority of the software being developed today.

External hard drives with a capacity of 160 GB are hard to find these days. The minimum size is around 320 GB. The price of a WD My Passport Essential 320GB is around ₹2,600.

Complete data recovery is never guaranteed. Not all the data can be recovered and not accurately. There is bound to be corruption depending on the state of the data or drive.

🔗 Upgrading memory

My computer has the following configuration:

Intel Core 2 Duo CPU E7500 @ 2.93GHz 4.40GHz 2 GB RAM

Windows 7 Home Premium 32-bit NVIDIA GeForce 8400GS(512MB) graphics card.

I want to have 3 GB RAM or 4 GB RAM. Can I put more RAM to my computer or will I have to remove my 2 GB RAM and put new RAM. When I play Assassin's Creed 2 or Blur or any other new games they don't run smoothly

Utkarsh Kumar

🔗 That depends on the motherboard you have and how many free slots it has. If the 2 GB of RAM is on a single stick,

A GeForce GTX460 is a good value-for-money solution



SoftKinetic iisu

Microsoft's Kinect has competition; SoftKinetic to bring 3D gesture support to PCs running Windows and Linux

Wildfire goes Froyo

HTC's Wildfire starts getting Froyo updates in the UK

Q&A

then you can add another 2 GB of RAM without any issues. If you have a board that only has two slots, and both the slots are occupied, then you'll need to sell away the memory before buying the new RAM.

The GeForce 8400GS is a really basic graphics card meant for playing HD content. One can't expect to get good gaming performance on new games. For better gaming performance, upgrade to a Radeon 5670 if you have a tight budget of around ₹6,000, or a GeForce GTX460 if you can stretch the budget to around ₹11,000.

Post interrupt, boot failed

When I switch on my system, it waits for about 2 minutes, then a black screen comes up displaying my processor, RAM, HDD and CD drive connected. Later it displays the following boot error: "Post Interrupted and BOOT fail, enter setup load setup default and Reboot". Press F1 to continue Del to enter setup. This error came after I added a new ATI 5670 1GB DDR5 card.

My configuration is as follows:

Core 2 Duo E7200

2 GB DDR2 RAM

and ASUS P5N-MX

Before installing this card everything was normal. If I press [F1] to continue, Windows starts and after that everything is normal and I am able to play games on my PC.

Himanshu Prakash Pal

Press [Del] to enter the setup. Then, reset all options to defaults. Save the settings and reboot. There might be a few changes that are made when new hardware is added or removed from the system. That's the reason you're seeing this error message.

Display turns off and on again

I own a Samsung B2330H monitor, ZOTAC GTX 460 graphics card connected to my monitor through an HDMI cable. My monitor turns off for a second, and turns on again. I reinstalled my graphics drivers to the latest version.

Rajat Rusia

Some cards and drivers force the monitor to go on and off during bootup. If an application changes the resolution of the screen, you can expect the screen to go off and on again. If it happens all the time and randomly, it might be cable problem, possible a loose connection.

Problems running Condition Zero

I have ASUS P5P 800 MX motherboard with an Intel Celeron processor and 1 GB of RAM. I face problems running Condition Zero 1.6. When I open the game, it shows the message: 'video mode failure the game will run in software mode.'

The software mode is so irritating. Does it need graphics card?

Ameya

You can try installing the graphics solution drivers for the motherboard. Sometimes, missing drivers can cause problems. In the case of Half Life-based games, the other solution is to run the game in Direct3D mode instead of OpenGL. You should find the option in the Video settings window once you load the game.

Motorola Backflip doesn't ring

I purchased a Motorola Backflip phone around a month back, I'm unable to receive almost any calls. Even when I call my phone using my other phone, a Nokia 5800, I can hear the ringing tone but the Backflip does not ring or indicate any missed calls. I use Vodafone and BSNL connections. I interchanged the SIM cards too. I am missing important phone calls from my customers which is affecting my business.

Atul Sheth

You should take the phone back to the dealer or service centre to let them

have a look at it. It might be a faulty piece or there might be some software bug causing the issues.

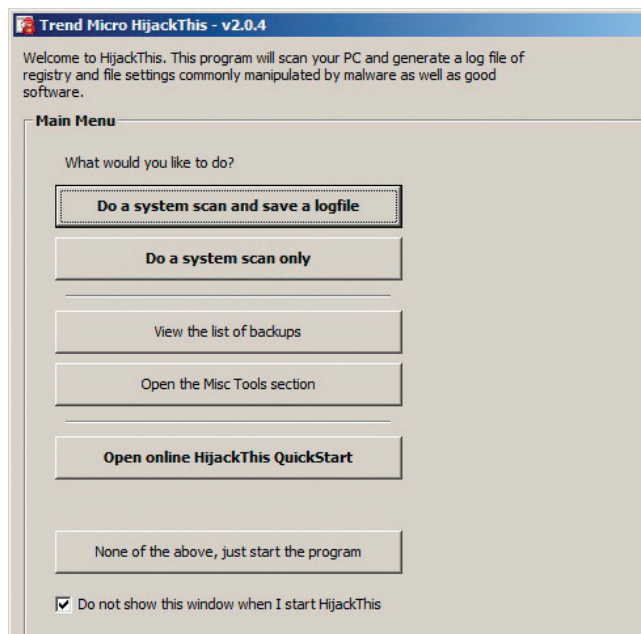
Lord Rahul Cool in IE titlebar

I have a problem with my Internet Explorer. The title bar shows the message LORD RAHUL COOL. Is it a virus?

If yes, I'll buy a licensed antivirus. Is anything else wrong? I haven't got an answer from the people I've asked. I do not want to format my laptop drive.

Aish Dalai

The message you see on your Internet Explorer title bar is in fact



HijackThis is a free utility which can be used to remove malicious scripts and worms from your PC

a virus of some sort. The virus has made changes to the default home page address in Internet Explorer and also the title. Those changes can be reversed by making changes in the registry. You can use a software called Hijackthis (<http://free.antivirus.com/hijackthis/>) to find the keys and fix them. Scan the registry first, then choose the keys for the Lord Rahul Cool virus and fix them.

To avoid such problems, update to the latest version of Internet Explorer or better, use one of the other alternatives such as Google Chrome or Opera. **d**

Pennywise, Power Foolish

A look at how to identify a good power-supply

Agent 001

agent001@thinkdigit.com

Being Agent001 brings along a lot of responsibilities that includes advising people while purchasing power supplies. Going away from the glamorous 3DTVs and exotic phones, my task this time is finding out more about power supplies. It's something most people seem to ignore. In fact, it's one of the last things people look for just after selecting what cabinet they want for their next build.

Instead of going on my usual trip to Lamington Road and finding the best deals on the power supplies, I decided to do some research to find out more about these less dazzling category of products. I wanted to answer a few commonly asked questions – how do I choose a good PSU? What do all these terms and standards, and do they really mean anything to us users?

One of the first questions that I'm asked is why should anyone even bother with specifically buying an expensive power supply, when the cheap ones work just fine? Often, the power supplies sold for low prices don't really match the requirements of the system. A 400-rupee 500W power supply is rarely 500W. In fact, it may be closer to 300W or 350W. The last thing a user wants is an under-performing power supply. If you are willing to take the risk, be prepared to witness BSODs, random reboots and sometimes shutdowns.

To counter this, people think that buying a PSU with the largest capacity is the way to go. The gamers amongst us have mid-range gaming systems with a mid-range graphics card such as the Radeon 5850 on a Core i5 system for



a 600W to 800W power supply. There's rarely the need for a 1000W or higher.

There are some who have many hard drives, and people are under the impression that hard drives consume a lot of power. It's not true. Most desktop drives consume around 4W on idle and 8W under load. That means you can easily run around eight hard drives on a decent 350W PSU running a basic system configuration.

Power supplies also have tons of features. There's also a lot of aggressive marketing that is done. One of these claims is the 80 PLUS rating. It started with a few brands and a few models but with so many levels, it's common to see not-so-great power supplies coming with these stamps. The 80 PLUS tag seen these days is a new standard started by a company that measures efficiency of a power supply at set power ratings. This is not to say that 80 PLUS is irrelevant. There are rumours of brands which are using the 80 PLUS labels on their products even without getting the certification.

There are a few other things vital to a good power supply – it has to be efficient, cool and reliable. The efficiency is important, but those who use a PC for a few hours in a day, it's not going to add up to a lot of savings. For more serious power users, it's important. Inefficient power supplies tend to be hotter and require better cooling, which in turn means faster and noisier fans. In the long run, these may not be very reliable either. PFC is another important part of a good power supply. It helps in improving the

example. In such cases, a stable 450W PSU should be more than sufficient. Again, we should emphasise that a cheap 400-rupee 400W PSU will not do. For those with the need to SLI or CrossFire, most two mid-range card configurations will be sufficiently powered by

efficiency of the power supply. Active PFCs are more effective than passive PFCs. Expect to pay more for these PSUs.

A lot of people like to gauge the quality of the power supply by the weight – the heavier the better. Connectors are features one should look at while purchasing a power supply. SLI users would want sufficient 6 and 8-pin connectors for the two or three graphics cards. Good quality cables is another thing to look out for. Well sheathed long cables with good quality connectors are important.

Now, for some recommendations based on past experience and from general opinion in terms of reliability. In today's markets, purchase 400W power supplies priced at above ₹1,500 at least. A good 450W PSU such as the Corsair VX450 would be available in the range of ₹3,500 and ₹4,000. Higher capacity models from Corsair's HX and TX series are also rated to be very good.



Similarly, Cooler Master's Real Power series is another range of power supplies. Seasonic is a brand that is known for its power supplies. In fact, they're the ones making power supplies for some of the top brands. The Corsair HX620 model is great for upper mid-range systems running a fast Core i7 processor along with a single a single fast card. For those looking for something little under the ₹6,000 price range, there is the HX520. They are modular power supplies are also decent for basic SLI/CrossFire setups. **d**

Calculate your requirements

Use Outervision's eXtreme PSU Calculator to get an idea on the capacity of the PSU required
<http://extreme.outervision.com>

Android 2.4?

Next version of Google's Android called Honeycomb rumoured to be out in February

Gawker compromised

The Gawker network security was recently compromised which allowed hackers to gain access to usernames and passwords; the data was made public on torrent sites

Agent 001

Graphics card with 3D support

I want to buy a good performance graphic card priced under ₹5,000. I have short-listed Sapphire Radeon HD 5550 1 GB GDDR5, HD 5570 1 GB GDDR5 & HD 5670 1 GB GDDR5. I want to know their current prices. If they are out of my budget then can you please suggest any other DX 11 card in my budget. I will use graphic card to play all latest games. My current PC configuration is:

OS: Windows 7 Ultimate 32-bit

CPU: Intel(R) Core(TM) i3 530 @ 2.93GHz

Memory: 2 GB DDR3 RAM

Motherboard: Intel DH55TC

The above mentioned cards have 3D stereoscopic display/glasses support. Will I be able to play games in 3D? Will my monitor support 3D content?

Anupam Anand

The Sapphire Radeon HD5570 falls under the ₹5,000 price bracket. The card is pretty good for most games but don't expect to be playing all these



games at the highest resolution or maximum quality. The card supports 3D glasses but you'll also need a compatible display and glasses. For true 3D support, you'll also need much more performance from the card.

Confusion over external drives

Can you please explain me the difference between portable HDDs & desktop HDDs because i am confused. External HDD tests shows that the portable hdds with 8 MB of buffer size & desktop are with 32 MB of buffer size even then there was negligible increment in the speeds. Like : For file write 8 GB Single File:- For Portable The speed is around 30,31, and

that for Desktop it is 33,34. Hence, it is clear that there is a negligible change in it. Please explain then what benefit is there to invest in desktop HDDs, which are even bulky in sizes and expensive too even when they are almost giving same speed. As I will be travelling quite often not too much with the HDD please even suggest me the better option of the external HDD, whether should i go for a desktop external HDD or a portable external HDD.

Also, please tell what is meant by, external power supply for Desktop HDDs.

Shailendra Garg

Portable hard drives are the compact external drives with a 2.5-inch hard drive within them. External desktop storage drives are the larger and bulkier external drives which still connect to your PC using USB, but use a single or two 3.5-inch drives in them. 2.5-inch drives typically have lower buffer sizes and desktop drives have larger buffer sizes, but USB 2.0 limitations cause them to operate at low speeds of around 30MB/s while reading. USB 3.0 will not have no such issue.

The only benefit of desktop storage drives is that they are available in large capacities. It's impossible to find 2TB and 4TB portable drives today. External desktop storage drives with 3.5-inch drives in them cannot be powered by USB, so therefore require an external power adapter. If you aren't travelling a lot, then a desktop hard drive is for you. If you're going to be using it everyday to carry data between work and home, then a portable drive is better suited to you

Need an Android phone for under ₹15,000

Here is what i need. Directives: Find me a

Phone under ₹15,000.

Specifications: The phone must contain the following features:

Android v2.1 or above, good camera and music playback, 3.5mm jack, capacitive touchscreen, decent battery life(a day or more), Wi-Fi, big screen(3.0.inches or above), 16 million colours, fast processor (550Mhz or above), memory card expandability, minimum 256 MB RAM, Possible target: Samsung Galaxy 3.

Pratheek Balakrishna

The best option for that price range is the LG Optimus One P500 phone. It fulfills all your requirements except for the 16M colours display. It comes with Android 2.2 though. It's built better, and is a lot better than the Galaxy 3 in many ways. It's priced around ₹13,000.

PC upgrade for under ₹12,000

I want to upgrade my old PC. sir I want the budget to be around ₹10,000 – ₹12,000. I need the best configuration. My old PC configuration is as follows:

40 GB hard drive

128MB DDR1 RAM

Intel chipset motherboardBOARD

Intel Pentium 4 processor

I've purchased my old PC around March 2003. Please recommend me a

good motherboard, hard disk, RAM, and processor. Many of my friends are giving me suggestions, but I would like your recommendations.

Shubhendu

The following configuration should fit your budget.

Processor: AMD Athlon II X4 635

Motherboard: ASUS M4A88TM

RAM: Kingston Value 2 GB DDR3

Hard drive: Seagate Barracuda 500GB

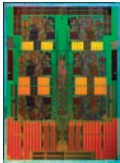


KILLER RIGS

everything you will ever need to build your own PC. whatever your budget.

- Basic rig = ₹19,775
- Multimedia cum gaming rig = ₹31,250
- High-end Multimedia / Gaming rig = ₹44,525
- High-end gaming PC = ₹54,500
- Ultra high-end PC / Gaming rig = ₹1,53,095

PRIMARY COMPONENTS



PROCESSOR

- AMD Athlon II X2 245 / ₹2,650
- AMD Athlon II X4 635 / ₹4,675
- Phenom X4 945 / ₹6,250
- Intel Core i5 760 / ₹9,800
- Intel Core i7 960 / ₹26,500



MOTHERBOARD

- ASUS M2N68-AM Plus / ₹2,200
- Gigabyte MA880GM-UD2H / ₹4,800
- ASUS M4A88TD-M EVO / ₹6,300
- Biostar Tpower P55 / ₹6,500
- ASUS P6T Deluxe V2 / ₹19,000



RAM

- 2 x 1 GB DDR2 800 MHz (Corsair) / ₹1,800
- 2 x 1 GB DDR3 800 MHz (Corsair) / ₹1,300
- 2 x 2 GB DDR3 800 MHz (Kingston) / ₹2,700
- 2 x 2 GB DDR3 1333 MHz (Kingston) / ₹2,700
- 3 x 2 GB Kingston HyperX T1 2,000 MHz / ₹10,300

GRAPHICS CARD

- None
- XFX GeForce GT240 / ₹4,800
- ASUS ATI Radeon HD 5750 / ₹7,200
- XFx Radeon HD 5850 / ₹13,000
- ZOTAC GeForce GTX 470 x2 (SLI) / ₹31,500



HARD DRIVE

- Seagate 500 GB 7200.11 / ₹1,800
- Seagate 500 GB 7200.11 / ₹1,800
- Seagate 1 TB 7200.12 / ₹2,750
- Seagate 1 TB 7200.12 / ₹2,750
- WD Black Edition 1 TB x2 / ₹8,800

MONITOR

- Dell IN2020M / ₹6,850
- AOC 2236Vw / ₹7,750
- AOC 2236Vw / ₹7,750
- AOC 2236Vw / ₹7,750
- BenQ G2420HD / ₹11,200



CABINET



- NZXT Gamma Classic / ₹2,100
- NZXT Gamma Classic / ₹2,100
- Cooler Master Chassis Gladiator / ₹3,825
- Cooler Master Chassis Selio / ₹4,250
- Cooler Master Chassis Scout / ₹6,200

SOUND CARD

- None
- None
- None
- None
- ASUS Xonar DX / ₹4,200



SECONDARY COMPONENTS

POWER SUPPLY



- VIP 350 Watts / ₹850
- VIP 400W Gold / ₹850
- Corsair VX450 / ₹3,500
- Corsair VX450 / ₹3,500
- Corsair HX850W / ₹9,450

SPEAKER



- None
- Altec Lansing VS2621 / ₹1,650
- Altec Lansing VS2621 / ₹1,650
- Altec Lansing VS2621 / ₹1,650
- Altec Lansing MX 6021E / ₹7,550

MOUSE



- Logitech 3 button scroll / ₹300
- Logitech 3 button scroll / ₹300
- Logitech MX518 / ₹1,200
- Logitech MX518 / ₹1,200
- Logitech G5 / ₹3,195



OPTICAL DRIVE

- LG H55N / ₹950
- LG H55N / ₹950
- LG H55N / ₹950
- LG H55N / ₹950
- LG WH10LS30 / ₹11,000



KEYBOARD

- Logitech KB-104 / ₹275
- Logitech KB-104 / ₹275
- Logitech KB-200 / ₹450
- Logitech KB-200 / ₹450
- Logitech G15 / ₹4,200

MISCELLANEOUS

TABLET



- None
- iBall Design Tablet PF1209 / ₹8,100
- Wacom Intuos4 Medium (PTK-640) / ₹21,280



MOUSEPAD

- None
- Razer Goliathus Speed (Oversized) / ₹1,300
- Everglide Titan / ₹1,450
- Steel Series QCK Heavy / ₹2,000



HEADPHONES

- None
- Sennheiser HD 201 / ₹1,250
- Sennheiser HD 280 Pro / ₹5,280

GAMING CONTROLLERS



- MS Xbox 360 Controller / ₹1,250
- Logitech Momo / ₹5,400
- Logitech G27 / ₹15,000

PRINTING SOLUTIONS



- Canon PIXMA iP1980 / ₹1,750
- Canon PIXMA iP3680 / ₹5,050
- Epson B-500DN / ₹21,000

POWER PROTECTION



- None
- Numeric 600 VA / ₹1,640
- Numeric 1 KVA / ₹4,000

Windows tablet

Samsung to ruffle feathers with 10-inch Windows 7 QWERTY tablet - Galaxy Tab Gloria: <http://bit.ly/eLPSPg>

Windows 8

Windows 8 rumoured to have graphic intensive Wind interface for high-end computers: <http://bit.ly/h006rQ>

Street smart

Stay Informed

Things to consider before buying

Consumerism is growing and achieving ample recognition among the masses. Growing trends of consumer rights awareness is now evident. However, popular conception of consumer rights is becoming synonymous with enforcement of rights through consumer forums only. While consumerism per se is a wide concept not confined to enforcement but also to prevention, consumer information, safety, consumer education, redressal rights and related consumer aspects, the enforcement through consumer forums has its own peculiar role. Beyond that when we talk about the consumer rights, "information" on related aspects of consumer rights plays a vital role for a consumer. Information from a consumer prospective means to have information relevant for pre purchase till post purchase.

An intelligent purchase requires pre-purchase product research. When we say research, it refers to general

consultation and inquiry regarding the product. Even asking your friends who've purchased the product recently constitutes pre-purchase product research. You can also gain valuable information by going through web sites for well informed reviews of the product and expert comments. Finally, arrive at your decision keeping in view your needs and budget.

You can also have product information from the regulatory authorities under the Right to Information Act. By making a simple application with a nominal fee, you can get all relevant information for your product if it is endorsed. The endorsement is granted by the Government of India with ISI marks, Star ratings, and other standards such as AGMARK. For example, if you're considering an electrical product, look for Star ratings. If you have doubts about energy efficiency, you can get related information from the relevant Government department.

The internet is a useful resource to get relevant information about the product. In the current market scenario, no company can survive without having a user-friendly web site. Company web sites generally contain a lot of information relevant for the product you would be considering to buy. Most of this informa-

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We can help!

If you're facing a problem with your purchase, write to us at help@consumermate.com

tion would generally not be available with the shopkeeper or showroom. This helps you understand popular terminologies to arrive at an informed decision.

As a consumer, you need to be informed about factors that go beyond the product you are looking to purchase. These include excellence, effectiveness, wholesomeness, standard and price of goods or services that would protect you against unfair trade practices. No one can charge you more than the MRP specified on the product package (it is mandatory for the company to print MRP on the package). If someone charges you more than the MRP printed on the product, you can lodge a complain with the weights and measurement department and the consumer court as well.

Consumer rights are meant to safeguard your valuable rights. But as the saying goes, "prevention is better than cure". So, we should equip ourselves with some awareness and knowledge that can go a long way in saving our valuable time and money and avoiding harassment at the hand of the seller and service provider. **[1]**

COMPLAINTS RECEIVED

Mobile Phones

1. Poor battery Micromax mobile

Question: I purchased a Micromax mobile (model no. Q3) from telephone shopee based in Kothrud, Pune. I am facing a lot of problems due to this phone. After purchasing the handset, within weeks I faced a problem of 'phone not charging', and immediate discharging of phone. I contacted the service centre, and they replaced my batteries twice. They also changed the software once, and yet I still face the same problem. I had contacted the nearest Micromax service centre (Infinity Solutions) at Pasalkar Bhavan, Shivajinagar, Pune. They rectified the problem. After two days I faced the

same problem. They returned it back. I visited the service center 3 to 4 times to rectify the problem. Within two months I have faced a lot of problems, and whenever I go to service center, I have to take leave from my job. It is so hectic for me. Please do the needful. My job order sheet number is 1606. It reflects some pending work. This time I don't want any service from the centre. Either handover a new piece, or refund my money. Otherwise I would have to proceed to the Consumer court situated at Bibvewadi, Pune. Waiting for your reply.

Kiran Harpude

Answer By Consumermate:

Dear Customer,
This is height of poor quality services by any company. I must appreciate that you are aware of your valuable consumer rights. They cannot hold you waiting beyond a reasonable period. You can establish your claim for the new handset as the problems seems to be inherent to the product. You can also write a registered letter to the company claiming that this problem in product was inherent which is bothering you time and again. Keep a record of all the communications exchanged. If, there is nothing positive turns out then you can file a consumer complaint against them for which you can always seek out guidance.

SPEND SMART

The latest peripheral prices updated every month.

Processors

Brand	Model	Market Price (₹)	Socket/Interface	Number of cores	Clock speed
AMD	Athlon II X2 245	2,960	AM3	2	2.90 GHz
AMD	Athlon II X3 440	4,390	AM3	3	3.00 GHz
AMD	Phenom II X2 550 Black Edition	4,330	AM3	2	3.10 GHz
AMD	Athlon II X4 630	5,150	AM3	4	2.80 GHz
AMD	Phenom II X4 925	7,110	AM3	4	2.80 GHz
AMD	Phenom II X6 1055T	10,295	AM3	6	2.80 GHz
AMD	Phenom II X6 1075T	10,280	AM3	6	3.00 GHz
Intel	Core i3-530	5,460	LGA 1156	2	2.93 GHz
Intel	Core i3-540	6,440	LGA 1156	2	3.06 GHz
Intel	Core i5-650	9,270	LGA 1156	2	3.20 GHz
Intel	Core i5-661	10,470	LGA 1156	2	3.33 GHz
Intel	Core i5-760	10,765	LGA 1156	4	2.80 GHz
Intel	Core i7 920	15,250	LGA 1156	4	2.66 GHz
Intel	Core i7-930	15,410	LGA 1366	4	2.80 GHz
Intel	Core i7-960	29,760	LGA 1366	4	3.20 GHz
Intel	Core i7-980X	55,530	LGA 1366	6	3.33 GHz

Motherboards – AMD

Brand	Model	Market Price (₹)	Socket/Interface	Chipset	PCI X16/PCI/SATA/USB
Asus	M2N68-AM Plus	2,370	AM2+	NVIDIA Geforce 7025/nForce 630a	1/2/4/4
Asus	M4A785TD-V Evo	6,000	AM3	AMD 785G + AMD SB710	1/3/5/6
Asus	M4A78T-E	6,930	AM3	AMD 790GX + SB750	2/2/2/5
Asus	M4A79 Deluxe	13,548	AM3	AMD 790FX + SB750	4/2/5/12
Biostar	TA785GE	3,735	AM2+	AMD 785G + AMD SB710	1/2/6/7
Biostar	TA880GB+	6,390	AM3	AMD 880G + AMD SB710	1/2/6/7
Biostar	A880G+	5,770	AM3	AMD 880G + AMD SB710	1/2/4/6
Biostar	TA880G HD	7,830	AM3	AMD 880G + AMD SB850	1/2/6/7
Gigabyte	GA-M68M-S2P	2,370	AM2	NVIDIA GeForce 7025 + nForce 630a	1/2/4/8
Gigabyte	GA-MA785GMT-US2H	5,255	AM3	AMD 785G + AMD SB710	1/2/5/6
Gigabyte	GA-880GM-USB3	5,720	AM3	AMD 880G + AMD SB710	1/2/5/12
MSI	K9N6PGM2-V	2,140	AM2+/AM2	NVIDIA GeForce 6100	1/2/2/4
MSI	785GM-E51	4,500	AM3	AMD 785G + SB710	1/1/2/5
MSI	785G-E53	5,260	AM3	AMD 785G + AMD SB710	1/2/5/6
MSI	890FXA-GD70	10,300	AM3	AMD RD890 + AMD SB850	2/2/6/14

Motherboards – Intel

Brand	Model	Market Price (₹)	Socket/Interface	Chipset	PCI X16/PCI/SATA/USB
Asus	P5G41-M LE	2,650	LGA 775	Intel G41 + ICH7	1/2/4/4
Asus	P5Q-VM	5,956	LGA 775	Intel G45 + ICH10	1/1/6/12
Asus	Rampage III Exteme	23,150	LGA 1366	Intel X58 + Intel ICH10R	2/1/7/6
Biostar	TPower I55	11,900	LGA 1156	Intel P55	2/2/6/8
Gigabyte	GA-G41M-Combo	2,575	LGA 775	Intel G41 + Intel ICH7	1/2/4/2
Gigabyte	GA-H55M-D2H	4,460	LGA 1156	Intel H55 Express	1/2/6/12
Gigabyte	GA-H55M-S2H	5,100	LGA 1156	Intel H55 Express	1/2/6/12
Gigabyte	GA-X58A-UD3R	11,825	LGA 1366	Intel X58 + Intel ICH10R	2/1/8/10
Gigabyte	GA-X58A-UD7	19,570	LGA 1366	Intel X58 + Intel ICH10R	2/1/8/10
MSI	G31TM-P35	2,600	LGA 775	Intel G31 + ICH7	1/2/4/4
MSI	G41TM-P33	2,680	LGA 775	Intel G41 + ICH7	1/2/4/4
MSI	P55M-GD45	5,640	LGA 1156	Intel P55	2/1/6/10
MSI	P55-CD53	6,080	LGA 1156	Intel P55	1/3/8/10

XBMC 10

Latest version of the popular HTPC software XBMC launched;
better GPU acceleration and tweaks part of the update

Graphics – NVIDIA

Brand	Model	Market Price	Direct X	Memory Type	Memory/Bus Width	Stream Processors
Palit	GF 9400GT	2,245	10	DDR2	1 GB / 128 bit	16
Palit	9800GT	5,540	10	GDDR3	512 MB / 256 bit	112
Palit	GTX 460	12,200	11	GDDR5	1 GB / 256 bit	336
Palit	GTX 470	16,790	10.1	GDDR5	1280 MB / 320 bit	448
Palit	GT240	5,980	10.1	GDDR5	1 GB / 128 bit	96
Palit	9600GTS	4,895	10	DDR3	512 MB / 256 bit	64
Palit	GT220	3,970	10.1	DDR2	512 MB / 128 bit	48
Palit	9500GT	3,425	10	DDR2	1 GB / 128 bit	32
Palit	GTX 480	27,605	11	GDDR5	1536 MB / 384 bit	480
Sparkle	210	2,370	10.1	DDR2	512 MB / 64 bit	16
Sparkle	GT 240	6,515	10.1	DDR2	1 GB / 128 bit	96
Sparkle	9800GT	8,990	10	GDDR3	1 GB / 256 bit	112
Sparkle	GTS250	8,990	10	GDDR3	512 MB / 256 bit	128
Sparkle	9400GT	3,710	10	DDR2	512 MB / 128 bit	16
Sparkle	9500 GT	4,535	10	DDR2	1 GB / 128 bit	32
Sparkle	GT220	5,770	10.1	DDR3	1 GB / 128 bit	48
XFX	9500 GT	3,400	10	DDR2	1 GB / 128 bit	32
XFX	GTS 250	7,370	10	GDDR3	1 GB / 256 bit	128
XFX	GT 240	5,590	10.1	DDR5	512 MB / 128 bit	96
Zotac	GTS 250	7,533	10	GDDR3	1 GB / 256 bit	128
Zotac	GT240	4,920	10.1	DDR3	512 MB / 128 bit	96
Zotac	GT220	4,370	10.1	DDR2	1 GB / 128 bit	48
Zotac	8400 GS	1,730	10	DDR2	512 MB / 64 bit	8
Zotac	GTX 480	29,800	11	GDDR5	1536 MB / 384 bit	480
Zotac	GTX 580	29,870	11	GDDR5	1536 MB / 384 bit	512
Zotac	GTX 570	22,710	11	GDDR5	1280 MB / 320 bit	480
Zotac	GTX 460	14,450	11	GDDR5	1 GB / 256 bit	336

Graphics – AMD

Brand	Model	Market Price	Direct X	Memory Type	Memory/Bus Width	Stream Processors
Asus	EAH4350	2,780	10.1	DDR2	1 GB / 64 bit	32
Asus	EAH5570	4,280	11	DDR2	1 GB / 128 bit	400
Asus	EAH5570	5,280	11	DDR3	1 GB / 128 bit	400
Asus	EAH5450	3,220	11	DDR2	1 GB / 64 bit	32
Asus	EAH5450	3,820	11	DDR3	1 GB / 64 bit	80
Asus	EAH5870	24,472	11	GDDR5	1 GB / 256 bit	320
Asus	EAH5970	39,920	11	GDDR5	1 GB / 256 bit	96
Asus	EAH5670	6,260	11	GDDR5	1 GB / 128 bit	400
Asus	EAH5850	17,770	11	GDDR5	1 GB / 256 bit	1440
Sapphire	HD 5570	5,100	11	DDR3	1 GB / 128 bit	400
Sapphire	HD 5850	15,710	11	GDDR5	1 GB / 256 bit	1440
Sapphire	HD 5870	23,480	11	GDDR5	1 GB / 256 bit	1600
Sapphire	HD 5870	26,530	11	GDDR5	2 GB / 256 bit	1600
Sapphire	VAPOR-X	22,720	11	GDDR5	1 GB / 256 bit	1600
Sapphire	HD 5450	3,550	11	DDR2	1 GB / 64 bit	80
Sapphire	HD 4350	2,010	10.1	DDR2	512 MB / 256 bit	80
XFx	HD 5450	3,350	11	DDR2	1 GB / 64 bit	80
XFx	HD 4670	3,530	10.1	DDR3	1 GB / 128 bit	320
XFx	HD 5770	8,550	11	GDDR5	1 GB / 128 bit	800
XFx	HD 4350	3,000	10.1	DDR2	512 MB / 256 bit	80
XFx	HD 5450	3,337	11	DDR2	1 GB / 64 bit	80
XFx	HD 4650	3,040	10.1	GDDR2	1 GB / 128 bit	320
XFx	HD 5970	43,470	11	DDR5	1 GB / GDDR5	3200
XFx	HD 5830	15,150	11	DDR5	1 GB / 256 bit	1120
XFx	HD 5570	4,950	11	DDR3	1 GB / 128 bit	400
XFx	HD 5670	5,930	11	DDR5	1 GB / 128 bit	400
XFx	HD 5750	7,730	11	GDDR5	1 GB / 128 bit	720

The gender bender
Technologies that women should be banned from using?

Assassins Creed: Brotherhood

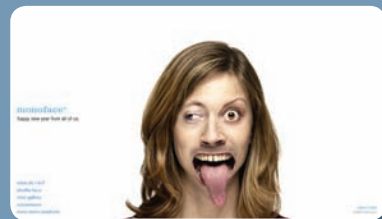
Read about the much awaited sequel, is it good or bad? read more in SKOAR!

Top Flash Web sites of 2010

Taking the best element further ahead - from the cover story to Unwind, here's the best flash websites of 2010

Moodstream

Designed by the guys at Getty images, this web site plays music and displays images as per your mood. You can choose from six presets – Excite, Inspire, Refresh, Stabilize, Simplify and Intensify – to suit your mood and preference. Visit <http://bit.ly/deVLgT>



Monoface

This site is truly refreshing, as you can alter facial elements on a head by clicking on it. The site has 759,375 entertaining possibilities and you can end up with some truly gruesome faces. It's designed by an ad agency called Mono. Visit <http://bit.ly/BXqC>

Waterlife

The navigation of this web site is its most fun part – the movement is fluid, almost water-like. The web site tries to teach us all about water conservation, and each tag – water is power, water is evaporating opens up to a little story about that subject. Visit <http://bit.ly/JMx1D>



Mark Ecko

Showcasing the work done by Mark Ecko in an interesting layout, its designed in such a way that a total stranger to the Mark Ecko brand would get a fair idea about it in a few minutes. The entire Mark Ecko portfolio reacts to the movement of the mouse. Visit <http://bit.ly/YxiMr>



Get the Glass

This is one of the best interactive flash games. Designed by California Milk Processor Board to encourage milk consumption, Get the Glass follows the adventures of the Adachi family on their quest to steal milk which has turned them into fugitives. <http://bit.ly/4ibge9>

AgencyNet Interactive

AgencyNet Interactive is a design studio based in California. Their web site is one of the best flash sites we have come across in a long time. The design and depth of the web site is simply brilliant. You have to check this one out: <http://bit.ly/CH9mw>



Make your own QR code

These days the QR code has become a common sight in news paper ads, especially those of cars. The Quick Response code (QR) is a two dimensional matrix barcode that can be read by scanners and smartphones. The information encoded can be anything from text to URL or other data. Here's how you can make your own QR code giving general information about yourself such as Facebook or Twitter user name. Generate your QR code by visiting this link <http://bit.ly/UbCu>. Here you can choose from presets like URL, Text, Phone number and SMS and also choose the QR code size. Where do you think this one will take you?

Approved: Tweeting from court

The Lord Chief Justice of England approved tweeting from court, after journalists were found tweeting in the Julian Assange hearing.

Rejoice Android fanboys

Highly anticipated Android 2.3 'Gingerbread' update would soon be available starting from Nexus One

Unwind

How we unwind

Blues for the Red Sun



Getting back to the paralyzing sounds of Kyuss, this was their second studio release which received much critical

acclaim but didn't sell too many copies. Its got some nice numbers to suit every mood.

Need for speed: Hot pursuit



We got our hands on the hottest game of the season. It reminded us of the original NFS glory as it has no-non-sense car cus-

tomisation options, just pure adrenaline pumping race and chase action. Worth the hype it created.

The Man from Earth



Not a very popular movie but indeed a good one. Its drama genre, dialogue based movie. A group of people talk about their past

experiences in life and as events unfold a strange but true secret is revealed. It kept us hooked on till the very end.

digit
DIARY

This month we bid adieu to Rudresh as he is gone back to Bangalore for more Android app development. (This guy can't get enough of Android in a day). His 'horse foot taps chest thump noise' will be sorely missed. In other developments, we have a new intern, Harmanpreet who is a third year student at IIT BHU. Harman got totally obsessed with the Tablet test and lost track of time, much to the dismay of Rossi and Nimish, check out his video review in Digit TV this month in the Omega DVD. Sambhav was away for a week for a marriage function which compelled him to complete the second DVD in a mad rush, which got done almost at the nick of time. The three little kittens belonging to Kareena (our office pet cat) have grown a bit in size, and are now running all over the place. Send us interesting names for them.

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Women in tech

Caterina Fake, cofounder of Flickr, and Dina Kaplan, cofounder and COO of blip.tv have been voted among the most influential women in technology

Gender benders

Why stop at mobile phones? Mitali Parekh has some interesting suggestions... you've been warned!

Mitali Parekh

readersletters@thinkdigit.com

The panchayat of Lank village, near New Delhi, recently banned unmarried girls from using cell phones to prevent them from eloping with their lovers. I can't help but agree vociferously. As an educated city rat, I can't tell you how much I miss captivity, ignorance and my chastity belt. Why just cell phones, there are many more technologies womenkind would be better without.

MP3 Players

Music makes women sway their hips, tap their feet and snap their fingers involuntarily, arousing men's passion and tempting them. It causes them to sing out loud, attracting more attention. A woman's virtue is her jewel, or as they say in north India: "She asked for it."

Computers

And other devices of education and advancement, such as calculators, build false hope. When was the last time we needed a calculator to make subzi, roti and dal from scratch? Or hitch up our saris and listen to our masters? Not only do computers and the evil internet increase potential for interaction with men who are not close family, they give us dangerous notions such as "Speaking your mind", "Education for all", and "Free will".

Modern medicine

Pain builds character and birth difficulties turn a girl into a woman, sometimes a broken woman, but such is God's will. Birth complications keep numbers down (of women and children; and female babies). Lately, everywhere you look, there are women walking on roads, taking public transport and even driving! This is because our population has grown

unchecked and rationing medical facilities would be one way of keeping numbers in control. This would also allow us to share our husbands our other sisters and give them a chance to hook up with the exceptional and enviable quality of men that India produces. In fact, a rule should be passed that we be given medical attention, only under the supervision of a male relative and only if we are unable to cook or have sex. The dosage should be controlled such that we can finish these duties quickly and without the strength to talk through them.

Facebook

Women on Facebook, with their self-portraits, blatant lists proclamations of activities and interests are a distraction. Without them, men would be free to poke each other in friendship. Perhaps, Facebook can launch a sister zenana or viewing gallery within the main site which would allow women to watch the interactions of men but not take part. Eventually, this would also be filled with men, pretending to be women, watching and liking the poking.

Fast cars and superbikes

Allows unaccompanied mobility. Women should only be allowed in close vicinity of a car or bike if they are wearing cut-off shorts and have tied their shirt under their moneybags. They may then be allowed to lay provocatively on the bonnet or sit pillion, but only if accompanied by men.

Household appliances

Modern amenities such as plumbing, running water and household appliances should only be used by men or for their benefit, so that they are free to run the world and attend to the complexities of their sexuality (Dear Doctor, My member is two inches long, but looks bigger in moonlight. Also, I help myself three



Mitali Parekh is a blogger, journalist and part of the grammar police for Mumbai Mirror.

times a day and am losing hair because of it. Will I get AIDS? Please help.)

Plus, unassisted housework keeps us indoors and occupied and so tired that in public, we are always disoriented and out of breath. It also puts us in close proximity of other women, increasing potential for the Ultimate Fantasy (Rated XXX).

Digital cameras

While taking photographs, one has to bend, stoop, kneel and dip to capture a view at the right angle. None of these postures are conducive to the female form. Also, it generates a woman's point of view of the the world around them, when they should be gazing at the ground when outside with their men. A good woman should never expose herself to the camera; a bad woman should, all the time.

ATMs and debit cards

Giving women access to money is like letting Marie Curie into school. Haven't we learnt from our mistakes? These material things take us away from our true calling of keeping a clean home while looking like Victoria's Secret models. Money is the root of all evil and once we get our hands on it, we start thinking about how to make more, where to spend it and how to make it grow. We also start evaluating our partners by measuring their bank balances, when we should be judging our man by how gentle he is with the belt and kerosene.

Say no to Windows

If you open one, there could be a man in there. So no way! **d**

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The great fire wall down?

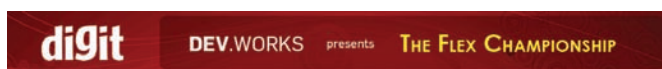
Facebook founder visits China, sparking of speculation that the social networking giant may try to make inroads in the country

Tron Legacy makes \$\$

The sequel in the now famous Tron series debuts in both the US and Canadian box office at no. 1

The Flex Championship

Calling all developers out there! It's time for you to don your thinking caps and start cracking. Digit brings you a chance to prove your expertise in Flex. Take The Flex Championship by completing following three steps and win exciting prizes like Canon Camera, Sheaffer Pens, 8GB Ipad Nano, Watches, Water Clocks and a lot more.



Step 1: Head over to <http://devworks.thinkdigit.com/TFC/>

Step 2: Answer 5 simple questions.

Step 3: Create your own IBM My developerWorks profile and fill the details of your profile.

Here's a teaser question

The Flex SDK can be used to create:

- ☐ Desktop applications
- ☐ Web applications
- ☐ Neither
- ☐ Both



Digit Facebook Pages

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Community of software programmers who enjoy writing code and want to grow their career in software development

Desktops of the month

Here are three swanky screenshots of desktop customisations by our community members. Upload yours too at www.facebook.com/thinkdigit



Submitted by:
SAMIR AZAD



Submitted by:
MAYUR TEJSINGANI



Submitted by:
ABHISHEK DHAWAN PATIL

Dec 2010

digit
EVENTS

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 Make your own Firefox extension



JANUARY 15
TIME: 1700 HRS

Have you ever wanted to develop an add-on for Firefox? Well the good news is, Mozilla has made this incredibly easy using the add-on SDK. In this webinar we get you acquainted with the Firefox Add-on SDK, (formerly known as the Jetpack SDK), by having you develop your own small extension! How cool is that? So on 15th of Jan keep a download of the Firefox Add-on SDK ready as we take the plunge. You can download the Firefox Add-on SDK from <https://jetpack.mozillalabs.com/>

For details on upcoming webinars and to view past webinars, visit thinkdigit.com/webinars

Old friends

Currently the oldest person on Facebook is one Ms. Lillian Lowe, 103. This came to pass following the death of 104-year-old Ivy Bean in July




Black chops

Lots of Call of Duty: Black Ops players are complaining about connection errors on PC and PS3 versions. Fix to come soon.

Community

Head over to www.thinkdigit.com/forum, for some of best discussions, buying advice, and user reviews. Of course, you will meet like minded (and not so like-minded) geeks, leading to some of the most constructive arguments you'll ever have.

Check out this thread below Samsung Galaxy 3 vs LG Optimus One
11 pages, 455 posts. This is like World War III over which is one is a better phone! But it's not all forum war, you'll find some interesting info on rooting, statistics, myth-busting and much more. Head over to the thread via this shortlink : <http://bit.ly/hdBkyA>

<p>09-11-2010, 09:21 AM</p> <p>jetboy Broken In</p> <p>Join Date: Dec 2004 Posts: 144</p>	<p>#1 (permalink)</p> <p>==== Samsung Galaxy 3 vs LG Optimus One ====</p> <p>Guys while my hunt for a good budget andriod was just about to end on galaxy 3, suddenly LG have started playing with my mind again .</p> <p>The phone which will really give a run for galaxy 3 would be LG optimus one. I feel if LG can come up with a good phone this time then this model will easily climb up to the most preferred budget andriod phone.</p> <hr/> <p>Your mouse has been moved... windows need to be restarted MY PC >> E8400 intel G45ID Ati 4870 512 2gb ram 500GB HDD 17" CRT..</p>
<p>09-11-2010, 11:45 AM</p> <p>Aditya11 Broken In</p>  <p>Join Date: Sep 2004 Location: Pune Posts: 100</p>	<p>#2 (permalink)</p> <p>Re: Samsung Galaxy 3 vs LG Optimus One</p> <p>While inclusion of FroYo is delectable, LG Optimus One has following shortcomings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- no Multi-touch input (thus, no pinch-zoom in browsers)- only 256k colors (some apps, games may not support such low color depth / may not look good)- no support for WiFi 'n' (WLAN speed suffers)- no support for BlueTooth 3.0 (not future-proof) <hr/> <p>List of Coolest Android apps for your Smartphone: http://playplus81.blogspot.com/2010/12/10-coolest-android-apps-for-2011.html</p>
<p>29-11-2010, 06:58 PM</p> <p>Sam.Shab The Story of Sam</p>  <p>Join Date: Jan 2010 Posts: 3,946</p>	<p>#211 (permalink)</p> <p>Re: Samsung Galaxy 3 vs LG Optimus One</p> <p>Also as i read in GSM arena & seen in few sites, the mobile doesn't comes with driver cd. so want to know if the ones that can be downloaded from LG site will work with the mobile & if we can have GPRS/3G on PC using them.</p> <hr/> <p>Athlon II X4 635 @ 2.9Ghz Gigabyte GA-MA785GMT-US2H Corsair 2X2Gb 1333Mhz DDR3 Value II WDC 500Gb Green II Sapphire HD5670 512Mb GDDR5 FSP Saga II 400W NZXT M59 Dell S2009W APC 550VA</p>
<p>30-11-2010, 01:43 PM</p> <p>NainO The MacroMicro Thing</p> <p>Join Date: Oct 2010 Location: GPS Disabled... Posts: 284</p>	<p>#219 (permalink)</p> <p>Re: Samsung Galaxy 3 vs LG Optimus One</p> <p>@als2</p> <p>Try BenchmarkPi(from android market) and Benchmark and post the result.</p> <p>It would be a good comparison between galaxy 3 and optimus one...</p> <hr/> <p>ERROR: Keyboard not found, press F3 to continue...</p>
<p>30-11-2010, 02:12 PM</p> <p>als2 Broken In</p>  <p>Join Date: Jul 2006 Posts: 169</p>	<p>#222 (permalink)</p> <p>Re: Samsung Galaxy 3 vs LG Optimus One</p> <p>LG Optimus one results</p> <p>Total graphics score: 235.39777</p> <p>Total cpu score: 232.64512</p> <p>Total memory score: 193.34158</p> <p>Total file system: 60.60898</p>

Assassin's Creed: Brotherhood

Assassin's Creed Brotherhood, as many suspected, is something between a full-fledged sequel and an expansion pack. Taking into account the many side-quests and numerous sundry distractions, calling Brotherhood a glorified DLC would be underselling it. On the other hand, Brotherhood falls short of qualifying as a proper sequel because the main storyline moves only by a few inches. Plotlines and side-quests aside, the introduction of multi-player game-modes to the series is all that was needed to seal the deal for many. The developers have risen well to the challenge of designing convincing multiplayer for a series where everything is tightly designed around a single-player experience.

Templar's plot

Brotherhood wraps up the saga of Ezio Auditore which was left unfinished at the end of Assassin's Creed II. Desmond revisits the memories of his ancestor to learn the current location of Apple of Eden which will apparently lead the Assassin's to temples left behind by the mysterious Ancients. At the end of Assassin's Creed II, Ezio escapes Rome and returns to the Assassin stronghold in Monteriggioni with his uncle Mario and the Apple of Eden. Events take a full circle as Monteriggioni is attacked by Cesare Borgia who kills Mario and takes the Apple back to Rome. Ezio wakes up injured and battered in Rome which is firmly in the grip of the templar through Cesare Borgia. Cesare's father is the Pope, giving him complete control over Roman power structure. Ezio's task is to wrest control of Rome from the templar by rebuilding Assassin's order and mustering support from various factions.



Brotherhood

Ubisoft has taken the opportunity with this stop-gap release to experiment with multiplayer in Assassin's Creed. There are mainly three multiplayer game modes in Assassin's Creed Brotherhood—Alliance, Wanted and Manhunt.

Wanted is a PvP game mode where a player is assigned an assassination target, while at the same time one or more players are assigned the first player as their target. Before the start of the session, players need to select a character they wish to play. The multiplayer maps are relatively small and they are filled with multiple copies of AI controlled characters that are identical in appearance with other players. Wanted mode creates a fair bit of tension as the player can be the hunter and the hunted at the same time. Hunting involves reading the behavior of characters to discern the AI controlled from the real players. The other two game modes are variations based around the same principle as Wanted.

There is a lot of value packed into this year's Assassin's Creed; especially due to multiplayer mode. In addition, the numerous side-quests, collectibles and challenges offer more replay value than any of its predecessors.

Il Mentore

Ezio's mission for most part of the game is to dismantle the Borgia power structure in Rome before exacting revenge and recovering the Apple. To implement this part of the game, Brotherhood has borrowed game-play mechanics from other games like Crackdown, Fable and combat from Arkham Asylum. Ezio wanes Borgia influence by eliminating numerous guard towers scattered throughout the city, which gives access to its surrounding area and commercial establishments within. This works like a mini-game within Brotherhood and also provides Ezio with a steady stream of income to rebuild the entire city. Additionally, Ezio rebuilds the Assassin's order by hiring new recruits, sending them on missions and upgrading their skills. When these recruits are not away on a mission, Ezio can summon them during fights and assassination assignments. The third part of the plan is to gather the support of Roman mercenary's guild, courtesans and the thieves to deprive Cesare of his money and army. **d**

FABLE III



7.0
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Fable III has been released two years after the series made its debut on the Xbox 360 with Fable 2. While this may ordinarily seem like a reasonable amount of time to develop a sequel on a familiar platform; apparently the ambitions of Peter Molyneux need longer development time to be realized.

Fable in troubled times

There are a few noteworthy improvements and most pre-release promises are kept. The sad thing is that some of the most crucial game mechanics are broken to the point of being frustrating. The golden trail leading to the next objective often behaves erratically and at times disappears completely. Hero's companion dog's AI behavior has become worse from what it was, when it was first introduced in Fable II. The dog often lags behind the player, becomes unresponsive and at times even points at treasures that are not there. These flaws are especially annoying because with the removal of mini-map, the golden trail and the dog have become the most crucial navigational helpers.

Now coming to couple of the most touted new addition to the series—the hand-holding gesture. Its execution leaves a lot to be desired with broken animation and erratic behavior, while adding little value to game-play.

While the concept of weapons changing appearance and properties according to usage may be exciting, it is apparently easier said than done. There are two main categories of weapons in Fable III—one set that the player inherits from the Hero of Fable II and others are categorized as legendary weapons. I played through almost

the entire game without ever using the Hero weapons. Yet the weapons would change appearance and properties each time relevant fighting skill was upgraded. In my opinion, this is just a cheeky hack to give the impression that the weapon morphing system works as it should. The legendary weapon morphing works better, but this is only because each of these weapons has fixed set of objectives that needs to be achieved in order to unlock upgrades.

Saving grace

Fortunately, Fable III has enough goodness to rescue it from certain oblivion. Lionhead Studio has assembled the most impressive coterie of British comic talent with the likes of John Cleese, Stephen Fry, Bernard Hill and Ben Kingsley. Together they deliver the most witty and well written script that the series has seen so far. Especially the character of Reaver, played by Stephen Fry is a memorable one.

While the game's main-quest is all a bit too familiar and disappointing, some of the side-quests are quite brilliant. The way in which the main-quest moves towards its conclusion is almost exactly like in Fable II. At certain points during the main-quest however, the game allows the player to take their time with free-roaming. This is when Fable III really shines on back of some well thought of side-quests—with a twisted sense of humor—reminding us why we love the series so much.

Pros

- Brilliant script and voice-acting
- Improved load-times
- Fairly impressive collection of weapons
- Great side-quests

Cons

- Some essential game-systems are broken
- Frame-rate drops
- Short and underwhelming main quest
- Often plays like an unfinished product

Verdict

• An otherwise disheartening game is rescued by dry British wit delivered by top actors, and complimented by some awesome side-quests



After having spent over 40 hours with Fable III, we can't help but think that the game would have been far more enjoyable if the developers had taken more time to iron out some core issues. However, even as it stands, Fable III has enough going for it to make it a fairly enjoyable experience. **d**

Finger gestures?

The Kinect motion controller for the Xbox 360 will reportedly support finger gestures

Motion sickness

According to a recent research, playing games can induce motion sickness

Kinect vs. Move vs. Wii

In the fight for gesture gaming dominance, who wins?



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Will Greenwald



THE SYSTEM

Thanks to a sophisticated depth-sensing camera (a single color camera for image recognition, and two monochrome cameras to determine three-dimensional location), Kinect can track your movements without a physical controller. You can navigate menus and play games without laying a finger on a piece of plastic. A microphone array lets users control the system using voice commands or hand-waves. Because the system is camera-only, it needs a lot of space; Microsoft recommends 6 to 8 feet between the Kinect sensor and the user.

The PlayStation Move is a technological cross between Kinect and the Nintendo Wii, combining a video camera with a physical controller. The Move Motion Controller, or "wand," combines a gyroscope, accelerometer, and magnetic sensor for tracking in three dimensions, while the glowing ball gives the PlayStation Eye camera a visual reference for motion sensing. Like Kinect, Sony recommends 5 to 9 feet between the player and the PlayStation Eye, but you can play anywhere from 2 to 10 feet of the camera.

Wii's remote, Wiimote houses an accelerometer that tracks movement, while an IR sensor on console monitor the positioning of lights emitted by the sensor bar. The addition of Wii MotionPlus, gives the Wiimote a gyroscope sensor, to complement the accelerometer, improving the motion detection greatly. Nintendo recently began to sell the Wii Remote Plus, a Wiimote with built-in gyroscope. The Wii's biggest weakness is its graphics; unlike the PlayStation 3 and Xbox 360, the Wii doesn't display high-definition content.

THE DEAL

Kinect costs ₹9,990.00, and includes a copy of the game, Kinect Adventures. If you don't have an Xbox 360, you can pick up a Kinect bundle, including a 4GB Xbox 360, for ₹22,990. And you only need Kinect itself for motion-controlled multiplayer games, unlike the Move and Wii.

The starter Kit which contains the Move controller, PS Eye Camera and a Demo Disc, costs Rs. 3650. The PS Move Controller alone is available for ₹2,499 and the PS Eye Camera for ₹1,499. For multiplayer games, you'll need at least one extra Move Motion Controller.

Unlike Kinect and PlayStation Move, the Wii's motion control system is integral to the console itself. If you have the console, you already have the motion control, the total system costing about ₹16,000 for everything you need.

GAMES

Currently, 17 Kinect games are available, including titles like sports mini-game compilation MotionSports, dance game Dance Central, and painfully cute virtual pet game Kinectimals.

Besides the bundled Sports Champions, there are several Move-exclusive games. Several existing or upcoming PS3 titles support Move control schemes, including Resident Evil 5, Heavy Rain, and LittleBigPlanet 2.

The Wii has been around since 2006, and it has a large library. More notable games include Mario Kart Wii, Rayman Raving Rabbids, Boom Blox, Red Steel 2, and many others.

PROS

Totally hands-free. Multiple players per Kinect and voice control works well.

Least expensive entry bundle. Very accurate motion tracking.

Inexpensive. Huge game library.

CONS

Requires a lot of space. Slightly more lag than PlayStation Move.

Requires a wand, sometimes two, depending on the game, for each player.

The least accurate motion sensing of the three systems. Not high-def.

VERDICT

Kinect offers both multiplayer motion gaming and voice-controlled menu navigation right out of the box. If you wedge it into the corner of a cramped studio apartment, though, you'll probably have some problems playing.

Sony's motion gaming system isn't quite as accessible as Kinect, where players can jump in and out of games without any calibration, but it tracks motion better than the Wii, and supports a broader range of games.

The Wii's been around the longest, and while both Kinect and PlayStation Move are more technically impressive with their advanced motion sensing and graphics, the Wii has the biggest library of motion-sensing games.

Those icons on your camera dial!



Wouldn't it be awkward if you had to ask your seven year old how to switch from shutter mode to aperture mode on your camera? Do you know which is the best setting to have while taking a landscape picture? If you find yourself clueless when choosing the correct settings on your camera then this guide will explain those little icons on your camera dial and save you from the embarrassment



Auto mode – This is the favorite setting for a photography noob. The icon is generally green. If

you select this mode the camera takes care of all the adjustments like exposure and shutter speed. All you have to do is to press the shutter button and get an almost perfect image.



Manual mode – The higher souls of photography choose this mode to capture their

subject. You can control everything from aperture size to shutter speed. At the same time since you are working without a safety net, the camera would not take care of under or over exposure.



Aperture mode – Select this mode to blur the background of your subject or to keep the image in sharp focus. When you select this mode you control the aperture priority while the shutter priority is automatically selected.



Shutter mode – Choose this mode to capture action photography.

Remember if you keep the shutter speed high you can freeze the subject while on the other hand keep the shutter speed low to capture motion in the picture



Program mode – This is Auto

mode on steroids. The program mode selects the best shutter and aperture settings while at the same time giving you more control to select the white balance and exposure. You can even tweak shutter speed up or down a bit.



Movie mode – Use this mode to record movies in various video-formats. The movie gets stored

to the same data card or camera memory where your images are.



Macro mode – Choose the flower icon to take images of nearby objects, within a few inches of distance. You can take life size images of flowers or insects or other small objects. However you have to compromise on focus range as it would be very narrow.



Landscape mode – Its advis-

able to select the landscape mode when clicking pictures in the outdoors. This mode automatically selects the best aperture and shutter settings giving you the required depth of field to capture your outdoor shot.



Sand and snow mode – Brightly coloured background or other glaring objects often trick

the camera into under exposing a shot. Choosing this mode the shot is over-exposed giving you details that would otherwise be lost.



Action mode – Also called the sports mode, this is best for taking shots of sports activity. When

you choose the sports mode the camera selects the shutter speed at the highest level giving you clear shot of the object.



Night mode – The crescent moon symbol means that the camera would automatically

select the best settings to enable you to click images in low light or at night time. This setting enables the use of Flash and uses fast shutter speed to capture people in the foreground. This allows lights from cars, buildings and other elements to show in the background.

Demystifying video game genres

You might have often heard these terms being used when people discuss new game releases or game consoles. Here's what they mean

Action-Adventure – Perhaps the broadest of video game genres. Games falling into this category include adventure gameplay along with elements from the action genre. First game released under this genre was in 1979 called Adventure for the Atari 2600.

First Person Shooters (FPS)



The gameplay of an FPS game revolves around a gun or other projectile weapon and is seen by the eyes of the

protagonist. The game is in first person perspective. Some of the famous games in this genre are Halo, Call of Duty, Quake and Crysis.

MMORPG – Expanding as Massively multiplayer online role-playing game, in this genre a large number of players play and interact with each other in a virtual world. The in game universe keeps on developing and expanding and is usually hosted by the game publisher. The biggest MMORPG is World of Warcraft with 12 million players worldwide.



RTS – In Real time strategy the players deploy and command armies, warships and other war units

to designated spots on a map. Additional items such as maps, army units can be purchased in the game by spending special coins or resources ensuring victory. A famous example is Age of Empires.



Life Simulation

This genre has players behaving the way they do in real life controlling artificial avatars

of themselves in a virtual universe. One of the most popular game in this genre is The Sims which released in 2000.

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