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Sony Xperia Tipo

Lenovo IdeaPad Y580

WDM My Net N900

Samsung Galaxy Note II

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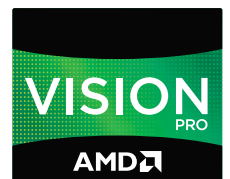


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A hard pill to swallow

Is it just me, or are we starting to miss out on some powerful leaders in the technology space? Not companies, I know Google and Apple own the world – for now. I mean strong and powerful people like Steve Jobs, or Bill Gates. Regardless of whether you loved or hated them, they seemed to be the people on a mission. They started their companies, and they had that sense of ownership, I suppose. I know stockholders actually own companies technically, but that's like saying Nike owns Manchester United because they might give them a rumoured billion pound sponsorship. Stockholders are like the men who bet on football. You always try and put your money on the winner, and yes, sometimes you lose, and abandon loyalties and move on to the next cash cow.

Companies, brands and even products are made great by passion and commitment. The reverse holds true also – some brands and products are horrible because of the confusion or a lack of vision by the spearhead(s). Not all companies are run this way, of course, but certainly the ones you remember are the ones that have a colourful character at the helm.

For Apple it was Steve Jobs, who came across as a no-nonsense go-getter in a single minded pursuit for perfection. For Microsoft it used to be Bill Gates, who came across as a business whizkid, making sure we were addicted to his software. It's people like these who seem to make you sit up and take notice, for better or worse, and think what you want about them, you still respect them for having a vision. These people also inspire fanboys. Not that that's a good thing in my opinion, because I hate fanboys, almost as much as I hate evangelists... but this isn't the time or place for *that* discussion.

What I'm building up to here is the fact that the PC race seems done and dusted. No they're not going anywhere just yet, so I'm not making one of those idiotic "the PC is dead" proclamations. What I'm saying is that the PC market is almost boring now, because you have a few players, they're all very well settled, you have your leaders and the ones playing catch up, but it's almost always been that way. And that's only the hardware side... on the software side it's pretty much Microsoft all the way.

The smartphone business has a little more excitement, but perhaps the problem of way too many players. It's the tablet market that seems to hold the key to success in portability.

However, in the West, it almost seems like game over – Apple's like Usain Bolt, already won even though the race is still being run, and the only way they can lose is to muck it up themselves.

And mucking it up is very much a possibility now, because they seem to lack someone to bring in all new fans. With the launch of the iPad mini, reactions range from "This is the best thing since sliced bread" to "Ho-hum", or the media favourite, "Would the iPad mini exist if Steve Jobs were still alive?"

We ask this because it was Jobs himself who criticised the smaller 7-inch screens of rivals, basically saying they were confused products that were too small to be tablets and too big to be smartphones. So of course Apple couldn't come out with a 7-inch version, so they came out with a 7.9-inch version. Apparently because the iPad is 9.7-inch so making the mini 7.9-inch makes it easy to remember. Or maybe it's just the good old "Only \$999 is a lot better than saying \$10" marketing gimmick. Either way, 7.something-inch is clearly taking on the other 7-inch tablets.

Reviews online range from "amazing" to "ho-hum" as well, and we'll reserve judgement for when we see it ourselves. One thing's pretty clear though, this is a repackaged iPad 2 with a smaller screen, and after making such a big deal about retina displays, the resolution is a little disappointing. Also the price is higher than the Nexus 7, and now people are comparing the two to one another. Apple has shown it's hand, and now Google has the chance to come back at it with something amazing. For the first time, we're seeing Apple taking on someone head to head. All this time it's been like a Bugatti Veyron against many Premier Padminis (Pad-mini, get it?), but by levelling the playing field to try and get into the 7-inch space, is Apple shooting itself in the foot?

Sometimes trying to capture markets you don't compete in isn't always the best way forward. What happens to Apple's image (without its iconic leader) when it competes and loses in a head-to-head battle? Losing in an apples to oranges comparison is one thing, but losing Apple to apple could really be bad for a market leader. Only time will tell. 🇺🇸



Robert Sovereign-Smith
Executive Editor
editor@thinkdigit.com

"Would the iPad mini exist if Steve Jobs were still alive? We ask this because it was Jobs himself who criticised the smaller 7-inch screens of rivals..."

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert Sovereign-Smith". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line underneath.

Liked or hated this column?
Write in to editor@thinkdigit.com and let me know your thoughts.

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Doom
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X-Com
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SpeedFan
Speccy

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Suggested

7-zip
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Free Download Manager
Adobe Flash Player

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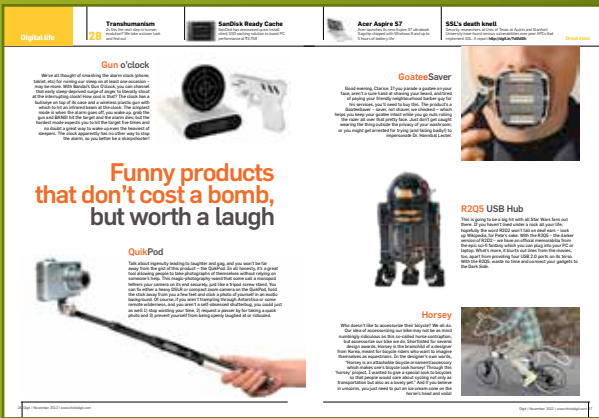
A good day to DIE HARD
The Croods
Life of Pie

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Crash Test Dummies

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Kermit: Rahul Babu

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Machine-Gun: Jiten Gandhi

Unsalariated Exploits

Scribes Nimish Dubey, Perzen Darukhanawalla
Abhishek Choudhary, Jait Dixit
Grammar Police Infancia Cardozo

The Technicians

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Dr. Print Rakesh Upadhyay
Hyper Drive Vilas Mhatre
Postmaster General Vijay Menon
Crazy Hands Brahmanand Nikalje
Executioners M P Singh, Mohd. Nadeem Ansari
Nilesh Shiravadekar

Wall Street

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Stockbroker Kshitij Garg
Mr. Calculator Shauvik Kumar
Analyst Chandan Sisodia
Adman Kishan Singh

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Deck Officers Jayanta Bhattacharyya,
Norbert Joseph
Navigator Dharmendra Singh
SeaMan Vijay Mhatre

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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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AMD A10-5800K
Amkette Smart Bluetooth Keyboard
Antec P280
ASUS HD 7970
AVG Internet Security 2013
Belkin Laptop Cooling Pad
Bose SIE2i
Corsair Neutron 240 GB SSD
Corsair Neutron GTX 240 GB SSD
Creative Inspire S2
Dell Latitude
Edimax IC3015Wn
F&D W330BT
Garmin NUVI 40LM
Gigabyte GA F2A85X-UP4
HP OfficeJet Pro 8600 Plus
iBall Andi 5c
Kaspersky Internet Security 2013
Lenovo IdeaPad Y580
Logitech Bluetooth Keyboard for iPad
Map My India Carpad 5
Norton Internet Security 2013
Samsung Galaxy Note II
Sony Xperia Tipo
Transcend StoreJet Cloud 32 GB
Western Digital My Net N900

Mini ITX Motherboards

ASRock PV530A-ITX
ASUS E35M1-I
ASUS E35M1-I Deluxe
DigiLite DL AHD1S-K
Foxconn AHD1S-V
Gigabyte GA E 240N
Gigabyte GA E350N
Intel D2500HN
Intel D2700DC
Intel D2700MU

Ultrabooks

Acer Aspire S3-391
Acer Timeline Ultra M5-481T
ASUS S56CA
Dell Inspiron 14z
Dell XPS 14
Fujitsu Lifebook U772 Red
HP Envy 4-1002TX
Lenovo IdeaPad U410 (59-342-778)
Lenovo IdeaPad U410 (59-342-788)
Samsung Series 9 (NP-530U4C)
Samsung Series 9 (NP-900X3C)
Sony VAIO T-11
Toshiba Satellite U840
Toshiba Satellite U840w

Gaming Wheels

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Nitho Drive Pro 3
Nitho Drive Pro V16
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Gaming Mice

Cooler Master CM Storm Recon
Cooler Master CM Storm Sentinel
Advance II
Cooler Master Spawn
Corsair M-60
Corsair M-90
Logitech G300
Logitech G400
Logitech G500
Logitech G9x
Steelseries Diablo III
Steelseries Kana
Steelseries Kinzu V2
Steelseries Sensei (Fnatic)
Steelseries Sensei (RAW)
Steelseries Sensei Pro Grade Laser

Gaming Keyboards

Cooler Master CM Storm Quick Fire TK
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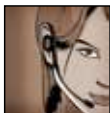
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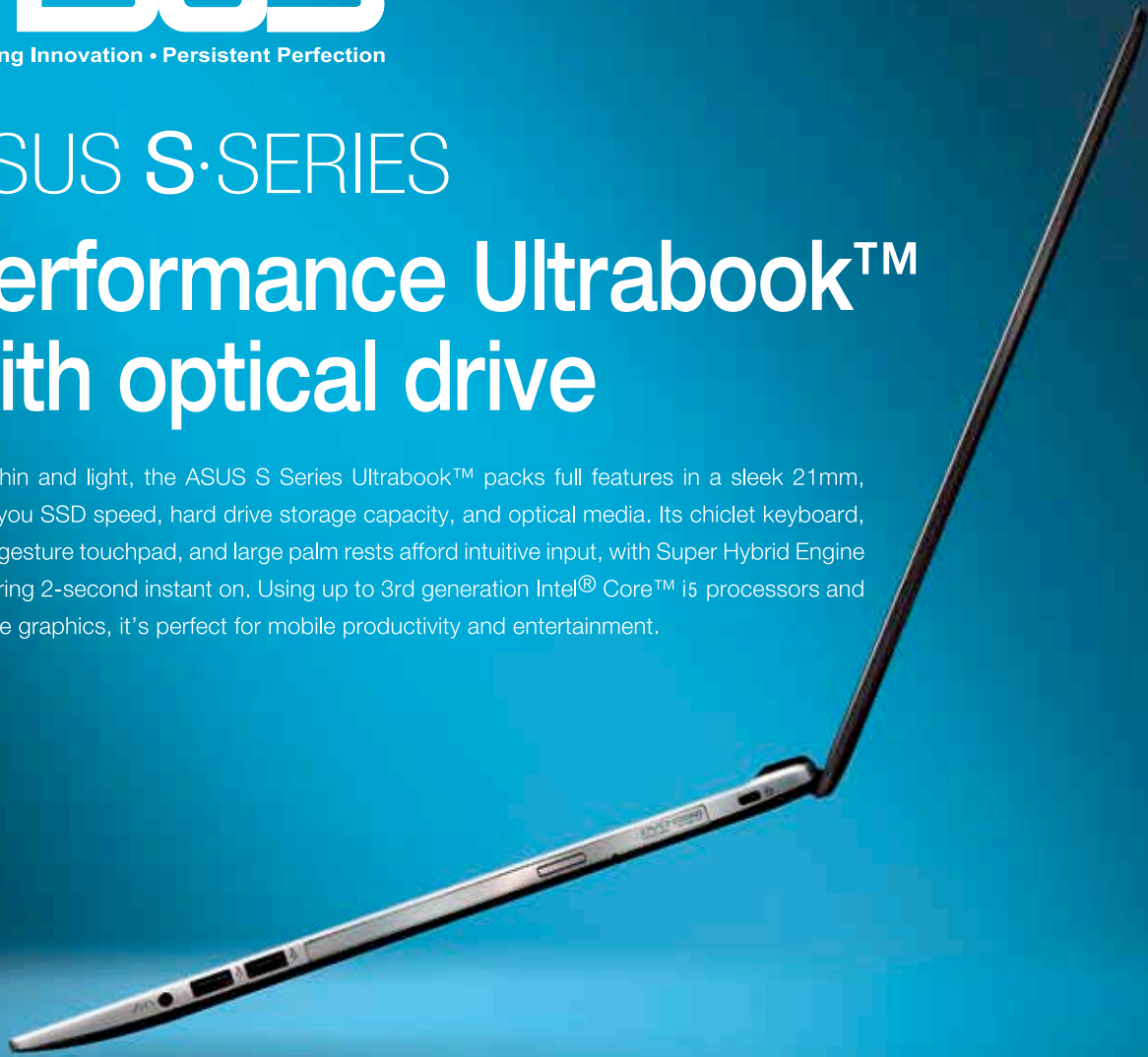
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Buzz

Apple, Microsoft and Google all claim to revolutionize the world. Is that really the case?

**ASUS VivoTab RT**

ASUS launched its VivoTab RT tablet on October 26th, with prices starting from \$599 for the 32 GB model

Don't get us wrong dear readers, we love you all, but some of you are downright nuts. Here are few examples of some of the weirdest letter we've ever got. Of course this is just for fun, so names have been changed to protect identities. So, without further ado, here are the funniest letters Digit has ever got, in their complete unedited beauty:

And the winner is...

✉ Years have passed, science I loved some one. It was in the month of April in 1996 I was coming out of my class from my Art class. Suddenly from my hands my art file and pencil box fell down. I bent down to pick my things and when I looked up i saw a shining face, it was a face which seemed that I recognised it from ages and soon I realised that she was a senior student of my school. I was in class 9th and she was in 11th. Her name was <censored>. But the Day I saw her was the start of a love saga. Soon there were sleepless nights and restless days. I never told her that I loved her. All that i gave her was a card, made by my own hand of a hearts written her name allover. I was too shy to talk to her and was afraid if I made her get angry she would have slapped me on my face if I did speak about my love for her or she would think that I was MAD because I would tell her of her and my past relationship. Who will believe it, I know no one as no one did then!

From some days after I saw her, I started having nightmares that I and she were fighting a evil warlord in space and on a different planet. One day I saw that she and I were killed or say brutally murdered by those evil looking demons and lastly I saw one of them say that the next planet is Earth to be destroyed by darkness.

Soon I started relating these incidents to my life and soon I realised that I was reborn for a purpose i.e. to save Earth from evil forces. One day a "Sage" came in my dreams and said you have to chose to love one person or to love the whole Universe, and the choice is yours. I chose to love the Universe and from that day I decided to fight against evil. People belive in God though they have not seen him, they worship him but they do not believe him, and if they do, why don't they belive in evil he is also

Feedback for the October 2012 issue of Digit

present. Soon I learnt Astrology, ameturley and soon found that I am very good in predicting the future. I got the power to understand people and forgive them for their wrong doings, I got the power to be calm in any situation even though the attitude of people towards me was to neglect me. These all powers were because of my love. I believed <censored> to be my wife, and to protect her and to save her life again from evil forces as she would be my weakness and could be a target.

I decided to loss her, go away from her and this could be only done by making her realise that I am not her man as a matter of fact she did not remember her past and it was easy, the time we spent together, the beautiful happy days and then the destruction and death were all are in my memories and I enjoy them and regret to some that why couldn't I save them. And thats the reason, I am calling the "Youths of the World" to help me unite the World and build an army.

An army of "Lightworkers"

It was same like George Lucas's Film "STAR WARS". Mr. Lucas was enfluenced by some supernatural power to create a fictional represtation of what had happened in the past on a different planet and to warn us of the future happenings so are we ready for "STAR WAR EARTH THE NEXT PLANET"!!!

The runner up...

✉ How?
(yes that's all it said)

Ed's reply

📌 Why?

The pirate...

✉ I learnt the geek-o-logy , geek-language tried all of the games / softwares you guys provided infact I am addicted to it. This is my 1st letter to you guys.

In one if your issues you gave Angry Birds Space v1.0.0. I played it to its demo limit and all till today I am searching for a Keygen for this game installed utorrent (provided by u guys). I have downloaded the attached torrents but they are either password protected or didnt download. Can you guys provide the keygen.exe or a surveyless, passwordless rar file or even a downloaded torrent which doesnt ends in a passworded rar. Please?

Ed's reply:

📌 No

Sheer brilliance...

✉ Sir plz tell how to send email

Ed's reply:

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Our 4 valve Triple Spark Engine is truly revolutionary. And it delivers optimum performance at all speeds, resulting in greater power and better mileage. The creation of this engine led to a host of other fundamental changes in the new Pulsar. We made a perimeter frame to hold the engine. Brought in a radiator to keep it cool. Changed the suspension to Nitrox mono shocks.

And added Petal disc brakes to the front and rear.

The aggressive naked sports styling is also by design: designed to announce that the bike goes from 0 to 60kmph in just 3.6 secs. There are many other features too, like an underbelly exhaust and 6 speed gears. All of which ensure that the Pulsar continues to be India's No.1 sports bike.

The Pulsar 200NS is available in: Cherry Black, Mustard Yellow, Tosca Red and Saffire Blue.

The Pulsar Range

Pulsar	200 NS	220cc	180cc	150cc	135cc
Ex S/R*	₹ 85,000	₹ 81,261	₹ 70,231	₹ 67,019	₹ 58,873

*Ex-showroom price Delhi

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200NS
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Samsung Ultra HDTV

Samsung has announced plans to launch ultra High Definition TV in India by the end of the next year



Apple iPad sales

Apple iPad sales crossed the 100 million mark, just two and a half years after creation of the product line

Now for the serious stuff. These are a collection of the more sensible letters of appreciation and criticism from readers all over India.

✉ I'm fifteen and a big fan of Digit. I started reading it last year, and must say your team has got me hooked. Keep up the good work! I actually wrote this mail to congratulate the editor, because in every edition of the magazine, your column stands out to me amongst the others. The flow, simplicity of the language you use, your ability to write on the topic with so much ease...well...have got me hooked. Great job. I particularly liked Robert's article in the September issue. It was awesome. And yeah, the cover gave "Beauty in simplicity" another dimension. The cover story was great as well! I wish you could tell me whose speech was that. I hope you continue doing your work in the same way, and best of luck for the future issues.

One last thing. The October issue was great as well.

Ksbitij Chauhan

📌 Thank you for your email. It really means a lot to all of us at Team Digit. We hope to continue to keep you riveted :)

Robert

✉ I liked 99% of the October edition including the magazine, Fast Track, 3 DVDs & devworx. Seeing this month's edition on stands, I immediately purchased it since there was no other option. Generally I search for magazines & compare the usefulness of content and then purchase. Thanks for so much content Digit. I'm still going through it.

E-commerce, DVD2 Omega (*After Effects, Premier Pro, Power Director 10), DVD1 Alpha (Building Website 500+ tutorials), DVD3 Extra... Wow! Superb!!!

L.Naveen Kumar

📌 We are happy to see you happy! Getting out a magazine such as this requires a lot of hard work and dedication from the team, but all of that is for naught if you guys are not happy. :)

Siddharth

LETTER OF THE MONTH

✉ I've been an irregular reader of Digit since 2005. Even though I don't buy every month's issue I'm a regular visitor on thinkdigit.com and your Facebook page. This is my first ever letter to Digit. I'm writing this after reading your October issue. I seriously don't know where to start or how to put my excitement into words, but let me try my best here.

1. The best part about the October issue is that you guys thought and wrote about more practical daily matters such as purchasing a new gadget, rather than just an article on "Increase in the usage of tablets on the planet". I'm not against the latter but am more interested in topics like you touched on in this issue.
2. The news about new product launches in the market sounded like a mini review of the gadget itself and I really loved it.
3. This month's 'Digital life' had some of the coolest products I've ever seen, especially Personal Submarine and Phibian. Why don't you come up with a subscription plan where a 5 or 10 year subscriber gets a Phibian as a gift :)
4. Audiophilia gives an insight to people like me who don't know much about speakers. Thank you for that.
5. This month's Tips & Tricks included Photoshop, Illustrator, After Effects and Premiere Pro. Yabba-dabba-dooo!!!
6. External storage devices are something people always buy and still many in India don't know what specifications to look for apart from the capacity. You have a detailed comparison test featuring leading brands in the market and a cover story on smart shopping secrets. I was actually thinking of buying a new one. You made my job easier.
7. Killer Rigs and Spend Smart are helpful as always.



8. Your 'Buy Smart' cover story is one of your best cover stories in one of your best issues. Thanks for including the most important gadgets from this generation's daily life - from smart phones to graphic cards.
9. Thank you for the website building tutorials, awesome movie making tutorials and obviously the F1 game demo on the DVDs. I'm yet to read the Fast Tracks, but I'm sure they'll be awesome :D

10. On the downside, there are full-page ads on almost every alternative page. And the Cinema 3D smart TV ad between an article itself looked like an article. For a moment I thought it was an article. Later I realized it was a removable page. You got me there but please don't do it again.

11. Please work on your website's online store page. It always gives an error. This time I got the special promo code from Digit's Facebook page for the discount but I kept getting an error continuously asking me to buy the magazine from a news stand without any discount :(
12. Last but not the least, the Digit IO1 on motherboard parts was really good. I didn't know much about motherboards before. Thank you Team Digit for keeping us updated about the tech world.

Sonu K

📌 We'll always be there to guide you with your technology needs. Since Diwali is coming up this month, we considered October to be the right time to educate our readers about smart buying. We're glad that you liked our articles, it is nice to know that our hard work is appreciated. Regarding the ads, we always mention on the page itself when something isn't editorial, so you can keep an eye out for that. We're looking into the problem with the coupon

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(Dual Internet Failback)

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- Voice Calls • USSD Services
- Micro-SD Card Support Up To 32GB
- Support USB 2.0 Interface



3G+ Wi-Fi Travel Router

- Compact design for Travel Use
- Broadband Internet (Cable/DSL)
- 2G/3G+ Internet (GSM /CDMA)
- 1-WAN/LAN port & 1- USB slot
- Universal Power Adapter - USB / Power



3G+ Wi-Fi Travel Router (with Built-in Battery)

- Compact design with Li-ion Battery ideal for Travel Use
- Broadband Internet (Cable/DSL)
- 2G/3G+ Internet (GSM /CDMA)
- WISP Internet - Configure Internet through Wireless client mode
- 1-WAN/LAN port & 1- USB slot

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ASUS Taichi Ultrabook

ASUS announced its 11-inch Taichi dual-screen Ultrabook in November, with a 13-inch version to follow shortly



Apple Fusion Drive

Apple announced the Fusion Drive system for its new iMac, that fuses separate SSD and HDD with custom firmware

Here a revolution, there a revolution, everywhere a revolution

Apple revolutionises the Mac, the tablet, the 7-inch tablet, the 13-inch MacBook and more. Microsoft tries to revolutionise the tablet in their style; Google is rumoured to revolutionise the tablet; AMD tries to revolutionise the CPU...

The revolutionary Apple

Apple's October 23rd keynote held in San Jose featured the release of some of the most products in the history of ground-breaking products, or so they claim. After starting off with some Apple propaganda on how awesome their company is and a long and drawn out run-through of the company's product line-up and how well it sold, they finally got down to the real meat of the whole show.

When it comes to unveiling new products, Apple could teach the army a thing or two about shock and awe tactics. When they unveiled the new Mac, the world almost keeled over at how slim it was (not really). How did they do it? How could they put a whole PC into something thinner than an iPhone? Well, they chucked out the DVD drive, stuck the cover glass to the slimmer LCD, shoved the hardware into a central region and strategically positioned the Mac so you don't see the "unsightly" bulge on the back while taking pictures. Everything from Apple seems like it has to come with a qualifying statement; "It's just 5mm thin, but only at the edge."; "We've got the best assistant in the world, but she's still in beta and will

only work some of the time."; "We've created the ultimate maps experience, as long as you live in select cities."

Dissing aside, the new iMac is actually one of the most elegant PCs currently available in the market, and possibly one of



The new iMac – thinner? Really?

the most well-built we've seen. The friction-stir welding that Apple claims to have used is no joke and is a process that is used by the likes of Airbus to seamlessly weld sections of the A380's wings together. The fact that the displays are colour-calibrated before shipping is something that very few manufacturers can even think of doing

and is something that is actually commendable and not appreciated by many. You'll be getting a full and detailed review once we actually get our hands on the device, but we can tell you right now, there probably won't be much to say other than the fact that it has been marginally redesigned, is slimmer at the edge and is a bit faster given the upgraded hardware and Intel's hybrid drive system.

We just wish they wouldn't insult our intelligence with most of their meaningless mumbo-jumbo about occupying 40% less volume and stuff like that. They don't tell you that you're probably getting 40% less PC in the bargain, at almost double the actual value. Or what about the new "fusion" drive and the new smart tech in the MacBook? All they actually did was take Intel's hybrid drive and SRT technology, incorporate support for it in their OS and rechristen it in Apple-speak. It's interesting that how, by just following a "living under an Apple instead of a rock" approach, they bluster through their events by claiming to reinvent the wheel every year.

Where Bill Gates was claimed to have said, "64KB of RAM *ought to be* enough for anyone", Apple would have said, "64 KB of RAM *is* enough for anyone" and then proceed to build every Mac for the next two years with only that much RAM.

Microsoft: Scratching the Surface

Microsoft launched its Chromebook this month to much fanfare and a mixed reception. Wait! Did we just say Chromebook? Well, it is called the Surface but in reality, it isn't anything more than a Chromebook. What does it have? It is, after all, an ARM-based device with almost no apps and has a fully-featured browser and relies on the cloud for almost everything. How is it that different from a Chromebook running IE10 instead of Google's Chrome browser?



Microsoft Surface - Another flash in the pan?

Would you really pay upwards of ₹32,000 for such a device? The device seems to be very well-built and designed and



ASUS recommends Windows 8.



CG8580 (i7)

CPU : 3rd Generation Intel® Core™ i7-3770K Processor
OS : Genuine Windows 8
Chipset : Intel® Z77
Memory : 8GB DDR3
Graphics : GTX 680 2GB GDDR5
HDD Storage : 1TB
SSD Storage : 128GB
Optical Drive : Blu-ray writer



The Turbo Gear instantly cranks CPU speed at any time, without rebooting



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UPGRADED AND BATTLE READY BORN WITH SUPREMACY



CM6731 (i3)

CPU : 2nd Generation Intel® Core™ i3-2120 Processor
OS : Genuine Windows® 7 Home Basic
Chipset : Intel® H61
Memory : 2GB DDR3
Graphics : Integrated Intel® HD Graphics
HDD Storage : 500GB
Optical Drive : 24X SuperMulti DVD burner



CM6830 (i5)

CPU : 2nd Generation Intel® Core™ i5-2320 Processor
OS : Genuine Windows® 7 Home Basic
Chipset : Intel® H61
Memory : 4GB DDR3
Graphics : Integrated Intel® HD Graphics
HDD Storage : 500GB
Optical Drive : 24X SuperMulti DVD burner



CG8270 (i7)

CPU : 3rd Generation Intel® Core™ i7-3770 Processor
OS : Genuine Windows 8
Chipset : Intel® H77
Memory : 8GB DDR3
Graphics : GT 640 3GB DDR3
HDD Storage : 1TB
Optical Drive : Blu-ray writer



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LG 3D TV

LG Electronics unveiled an 84-inch 3D TV that will be available in India from November, priced at Rs. 17 lakh



Samsung LED ES9000

Samsung launched its new 75-inch LED ES9000 TV in India, with a dual core processor and motion and voice control

while the bundled apps are excellent by themselves, they're just not enough. The problem here is that even Microsoft doesn't seem to realise that. They want to revolutionise the tablet with an absolutely brand new OS, but have built no apps to support it. Even Apple had better sense than that when they launched the iPad. It barely had a few apps that took full advantage of that screen size, but then it at least had the backing of a vast library of iPhone apps. This is another of those devices that teases with its potential but may never live up to it and judging from past experience, might get scrapped at the first hint of failure. Microsoft is very serious about the device though, and considering that this is possibly the second piece of hardware they've ever produced, they've done a good job, and hopefully will decide to stick with it long enough to ensure it succeeds.

What surprises us more is why they didn't learn from the Windows Phone 7 fiasco. For a company that held a funeral for iOS and BlackBerry when the WP7 RTM was released, it was not fitting when they dumped it like a hot potato (into Nokia's lap) when they decided to move on to Windows Phone 8 and RT without the courtesy of a farewell speech. At some point in the development process Microsoft seems to have completely lost sight of their target in their haste to get the OS out in time. At the moment at least, the Surface seems like a decent device for students and might actually work out well enough with the right support. Moving on to something more cheery, Microsoft has laid out the upgrade

plans for us users and the prices are very reasonable (at \$40), especially if you're still on XP. The OS for PC use is still a disappointment though. They seem to have taken a Tablet OS and ported it to the PC rather than the other way around. This is very frustrating for us hard-core PC users and we feel it would have been far better if the OS would make up its mind about which version of the UI it wants to stick to. With the right hardware and touch-screen device, the OS does come into its own.

Google: Up to its own devices

Google at least, is unfazed by the goings on in the Apple and Microsoft world. Their OS is the most popular mobile platform and their Nexus devices are flying off the shelves. The 7 inch Nexus 7 is one of the most powerful and feature-packed devices and is probably the definitive Android tablet currently available. Rumours abound that there will be a Nexus 10 announced and by the time you get this issue, we'll know for sure. We're really curious to see if Google will respond to Apple's mockery of the Nexus 7 and what would be really fun (wishful thinking) was if there could be an all-out



Google – Paving its own way

flame war between the two companies. Google also launched a Chromebook this earlier this October, retailing at about \$250 (₹14,000), which might be a good deal for students and prolific Googlers for whom the PC is nothing more than platform for the browser. The only drawback is the continuous internet connectivity required, which would severely restrict its use in India at least. Running on a Cortex A15 processor, it is reasonably fast.

AMD: Hoping for a piece of the pie

The Z-60 APU (formerly Hondo) was announced recently and features a dual-core 1GHz processor coupled with an 80 core GPU (shader



AMD - Playing catch up

cores). This is AMD's attempt at delivering a compelling, tablet friendly chipset to take on the likes of ARM and Intel.

We would actually like to see this APU in more devices as even though the power draw is higher (translating to lower battery life), the performance benefits for a tablet device can be quite exemplary, especially considering the limited power of Intel's HD graphics when it comes to gaming. With the Tegra chipset from NVIDIA, it is possible that AMD lost this race a long time ago and might never be able to catch up. They also announced a new




High-speed internet finally?

desktop APU, the A10. Make sure to check out our review in the bazaar section this month.

Misc

Speaking of processors, Intel's earnings seem to have declined a bit, especially considering the lacklustre sales in the PC segment. The news isn't too terrible and if Intel can push ahead in the right direction, they can make up on that slight loss in revenue in no time at all. Their Ultrabook sales seem to be doing well and that is probably where they will focus their attention from now on. Good news for you internet junkies out there – if Radius Infratel has its way, it won't be long before we start seeing

blazingly fast 1GBps speeds in India. Don't hold your breath though, the prices are way too high for the average home user and there are some quite severe bandwidth restrictions. Also, how many of you actually use CAT6 cables? Airtel and MTNL are also planning to roll out high speed connections at between 20-100 MBps with prices started at 2600 and going upto 100MBps and beyond. The connections are currently limited to about 200Gb per month at full speed but are still way faster than anything else available in the market today. A 200Gb limit isn't bad at all. Unless you're a prolific pirate. 

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Mobile Watch

A lot has happened in the last month - iPad mini launch, Samsung galaxy SIII Mini launch and much more. Read on

App Watch

This month we take a look at the top apps as far as the Android OS and iOS is concerned

Old web sites, new services

Google Maps underwater, reworked cloud-storage plans, Facebook's gift plans and 1 billion users and other happenings in the web world

The usual Web Watch suspects this month made a number of changes to their products and services, from Facebook to Google to YouTube. Some new services were introduced as well.

There might be some good news for broadband users in India as well, as 9 cities are scheduled to get speeds up to 1Gbps, by mid-2013.

Google round-up

Google has announced a new initiative that is aimed at providing entrepreneurs with online resources and tools to help launch and set up small businesses. The new initiative, called 'Google for Entrepreneurs' is supposed to serve as "the umbrella" for various other programmes and partnerships that support startups and other entrepreneurs. Google's head of Global Entrepreneurship Outreach, Mary Grove, explains that the new initiative mainly focusses on building partnerships with organisations that serve entrepreneurs in local communities, to assist entrepreneurs with Google's teams and tools, and placing relevant Google tools in the hands of startups. Or basically, we're making stuff for people who make stuff so we



Now you can scour the seas with Maps

can make money off other people making stuff.

While Apple's maps insist the sea is a field or something, Google Maps is going underwater to give you panoramic pictures of reefs. Google released photos of six underwater locations, including Australia's Great Barrier Reef, the Apo Islands and several other coral-filled spots throughout the Pacific. It is part of the Google's World Wonders project, which uses Google's Street View Technology to map lesser known sites across the world. Google has partnered with The Catlin Seaview Survey, a major scientific study of the world's reefs, to make the images available to the users of Google Maps. And unlike Apple, the reefs are where Google say they are.

In other news, google Drive is integrated with Picasa, and you're getting less. Thus far you got 5 GB of free storage with Drive and an additional 1 GB with Picasa. Now, however, you get 5 GB total. Now even though not many use all of that, sad smilies abound whenever you lose something.

Paying customers are also getting screwed! Those of you who paid for Google Drive's additional storage, used to get the free storage + what you pay for. thus, if you paid for 25 GB, you got (5+25) 30 GB of storage. Now all you will get is what you pay for, with the free to everyone storage vanishing.

The spring-cleaning continues with certain services and features



Google for Entrepreneurs, a new service

being discontinued. The ones in the line of fire this time around are - Google News Badges, AdSense for RSS feeds, spreadsheet gadgets, Classic plus (lets users upload custom images for search page) and the Places directory app. The trimming effort now means that around 60 services have already faced the axe, in an effort to make the offerings more streamlined. For more information, refer to Google's official blog post, which you can find by Google searching of course.

Following the introduction of 'Search Plus Your World' that integrated social results into Google Search, Google is now testing the customised search feature for Gmail users, who can now search across a range of Google products from a single search box. Searches will include relevant information from Gmail, and also files, documents, and spreadsheets from Google Drive, which will appear on the right hand side of the results page. Users willing to participate in the trial should

visit the updated field trial page and select 'Join the field trial'.

In a bid to encourage more video uploads from outside the US, Google has added a new set of caption translation tools on YouTube. Google has integrated its Google Translator Toolkit with YouTube Video Manager, enabling support for more than 300 languages. It's notable that these tools should not confused with the automatic caption translator, which YouTube currently supports for about 50 languages. Users who want to add captions in languages that are not supported by the automatic caption translate will have to do the work themselves or ask others to help out.

Google is planning to launch a YouTube pay-per-view service for users in India, according to reports. The move is likely to



YouTube adds more languages

help those poor movie stars and producers poay the rent bills more easily by reducing piracy and also givn consumers a wider range of movies and/or videos to choose from. Google's pay-per-view services are already available in multiple countries such as Australia, Korea and Japan. YouTube's rental model includes a one-time fee to stream the movie for a limited period of time. Google,

Security Watch

Taking a break from the downright serious security-breaches, this month we look at some security compromises that will make you go LOL

Web Watch

however, pointed out its main concern is the payment mechanism. Google officials also hinted at the company's growing focus on regional content.

Facebook

In case you want to remember who you were cyber stalking on Facebook, the social network will now allow you to review your search history. Facebook last year rolled out its Activity Log in conjunction with the revamped Time-



Facebook Gifts

line profile. That allowed users to review activity and approve or reject items for inclusion on their Timeline. Now, that activity log will include details on searches conducted on the site. Facebook said it will update users' activity logs with search data over the next few weeks. A link to your activity log is located in the top right-hand corner of your Timeline, just below your cover photo. You can then drill down for search-specific data.

Facebook has launched a new service called 'Facebook Gifts', which allows users to purchase gift items for their friends via the social network's desktop or mobile versions and have it delivered to their door. Facebook is rolling out the Gifts service gradually, starting with the US. Facebook users can send gifts from the birthday reminders links that appear on the right hand panel of the news feed or from a friend's Timeline by clicking the "Give him/her a gift" link or the icon for a present. There's an option to post gift notifications on Friend's Timeline or send privately.

The social networking giant has now crossed 1 billion active monthly users. This makes Facebook the first social


network to cross the figure, indicating that one out of every seven individuals on the planet is using the service. Of the one billion active users, 600 million are accessing Facebook via mobile. The average user age is 22 and since its launch in 2004, the site has seen 1.13 trillion 'Likes' with 219 billion photo uploads, 17 billion of which were location-tagged. Facebook had 955 million monthly active users, 543 million of which accessed the site via mobile and 552 million daily active users on average as of June 2012.

Facebook has announced its user base in India has grown to 65 million users, from just 8 million in 2010, competing with Brazil and Indonesia for the number two spot. As of August 2012, the user base was around 50 million, suggesting a rapid growth of the social networking web site in rural and urban parts of the country.

LinkedIn rolls out new profile design

LinkedIn has started rolling out a revamped design for its profiles which will make it easier for users to build a professional identity. The updated LinkedIn user profile is available immediately for English-language users, and will be rolled out for all users over the next few months.

Addressing a media presentation at LinkedIn headquarters, the engineering team of the professional networking web site said the new profiles come with several enhancements and new features. Some of the notable enhancements are in-line editing, sidebar for adding profile sections, high resolution images and drag and drop profile sections to sort according to users' preferences.

LinkedIn also added a new feature for users that allow them to follow the world's 'most respected thought leaders' on the site. The company says the new "follow" mechanism allows users to keep up with select groups of individuals, a "natural extension" of existing tools for following news feeds and organisations. 



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iPad Mini, Galaxy SIII Mini, ASUS Padfone2 and more launches

The mobile space is always packed with action each month. October was no different. Also there are over a billion smartphone users in the world now

It's been a period of waiting, and unfortunately, none of it is over. There have been some new invitations issued as well since we last met. At the time of writing, all expected major revelations still lamentably lie in the future – including the first batch of Windows Phone 8 devices (October 29), and the Android mystery reveal (October 29).

On a side note, the accompanying tablet sphere is heating up quite a bit, with the introduction of the first Windows 8 (with the shared NT kernel) tablets – starting with Microsoft's Surface for Windows RT offering in late October. If you get your magazine late, blame the iPad Mini, because it launched just as we were about to go to print. The possible 10-inch or ultra-low cost Nexus tablets from Google at the Android mystery event stand to make things even more interesting in the smartphone-tablet ecosystem.

With some big announcements, including a few in the Indian space, it's not all frustration. The iPhone 5 has seen brisk business on the grey market and the online front here, whilst being officially benchmarked as the most powerful smartphone yet – despite its startling 7.6 mm thickness. The iPhone 5 also has other records, with more than 5 million units sold in the first week. The massive iPhone 5 competition base now really has a lot to live up to – at least on the engineering front.

iPad mini is finally here

The much-rumoured and talked about mini version of the iPad was finally released by Apple on October 23. The 7.9-inch Apple iPad mini was announced along with the 13-inch Retina Display MacBook Pro, the new iMac (both sporting Ivy Bridge processors) and a more powerful 4th generation iPad.



Apple iPad Mini

The iPad mini has a 7.9-inch panel with 1024x768 resolution and measures just 7.5 mm on the sides. It sports the new Lightning connector so that you have to buy all new accessories and spend even more.

Pricing starts at \$329 for the 16GB Wi-Fi version. The 32GB Wi-Fi is \$429, while the 64GB will be \$529. The Wi-Fi plus cellular versions will be \$459 (16GB), \$559 (32GB), and \$659 (64GB).

since everyone loves per centages: the iPad mini is 23 per cent thinner and 53 per cent lighter than its 9.7-inch counterpart. "It's as thin as a pencil,"

Apple's Phil Schiller said, but we've seen thinner pencils, to be honest.

Schiller said the Apple team "worked really hard" thinking about the size of the iPad mini, which probably means a lot of coffee breaks and real-world paper toss championships. Anyway, they say they have iPad that is capable of running existing apps, but isn't so small "that it stops being incredibly usable."

"All the software made for the iPad works on the mini with no change," Schiller said.

Schiller compared the iPad mini to existing Android tablets, criticizing its rivals for using plastic materials, only making the screen 7 inches, and not having as many apps. "There is a gigantic difference in these products," he said. "They have phone applications stretched up, not tablet applications."

The iPad mini runs a dual-core A5 processor from Apple. It supports FaceTime HD and features and a 5-megapixel iSight camera. There's LTE connectivity, as well as 802.11 a/b/g/n Wi-Fi. Apple promised 10 hours of battery life.

Apple is also offering new polyurethane Smart Covers for the iPad mini in pink, green, blue, light gray, dark gray and red for \$39, but you'd be better off waiting for Chinese ripoffs at a quarter of the price.

Read the hands-on with the iPad Mini here: <http://dgit.in/WKGuaO>

Windows Phone 8 – a refresher

While Windows Phone 8 is not yet out in the market, we thought we'd also jog your memory of what changes the new platform will bring, just in case you forget all about them.

Windows Phone 8 finally supports the multi-core chipsets, and the first batch from Samsung, Nokia and HTC all show off dual-core processors. All WP8 devices will get Internet Explorer 10. They will share native code with Windows 8, bringing ease of porting, shared APIs and libraries, and enterprise-level hardware features. NFC (including mobile wallet) and Bluetooth support will be up-to-date. Microsoft is also finally adding microSD card support with Windows Phone 8.

All Windows Phone 8 devices will feature Nokia Maps powered by NAVTEQ data. They will offer turn-by-turn voice navigation and offline



Samsung ATTIV S



Nokia Asha 308

Nokia launched its Asha 308 dual-SIM touch phone in India, with a 3-inch capacitive display and a 2MP camera



Microsoft TypeScript

Microsoft has released new development environment that extends Javascript, which is free and open source

Mobile watch

map support, apart from map control for developers. Also improved in this space is Local Scout, which will be able to list deals alongside location-based business listings. For businesses, Microsoft also promises direct Windows 8 level device management, customized and closed app stores, and more. Also expect deeper VoIP integration, better multitasking, more supported resolutions, and in-app purchasing.

Last but not the least, is the new Start screen on Windows Phone 8, which will allow users to create their own customised home screens with greater ease. They will be able to resize their Live Tiles into large, medium, and small sizes. Relevantly, Windows Phone 7.5 apps will work on WP8. Microsoft will



Samsung Galaxy SIII Mini

also be allowing for greater colour customisation of the Start screen. Colours that you can choose, can you believe it?

Samsung Galaxy S III Mini

Samsung officially unveiled the Galaxy S III Mini at an event in Germany earlier in October. The smartphone is powered by a 1 GHz dual-core processor, coupled with 1GB of RAM. It features a 4-inch Super AMOLED display (800x480 pixels) and will come with Android Jelly Bean when it ships.

The Galaxy S III Mini will come with 16 GB internal storage and a memory card for expansion. No word yet on the pricing of the S III Mini, but global availability is expected to coincide with the Christmas shopping rush. Compared to the Galaxy S III, the Mini does away with quad-core power for a dual-core processor. The camera also sees a downgrade from 8 MP to 5 MP.

The Galaxy S III Mini carries forward the S-Voice, Smart Stay, Direct Call and S Beam features from the Galaxy S III.

Android mystery

Google's October 29 event in New York is about Android – that much is known. But whether the company will unveil a new Google Nexus phone, or a new Google Nexus tablet is still unknown.

The next flagship Nexus phone, the LG Nexus 4, has been doing the rounds of the internet rumour mills recently, with a batch of specifications and even a few images making their way online. The LG Nexus 4 reportedly measures 9.1mm in thickness, and weighs 139 grams, while bearing a 4.7-inch (1,280x768) display, a quad-

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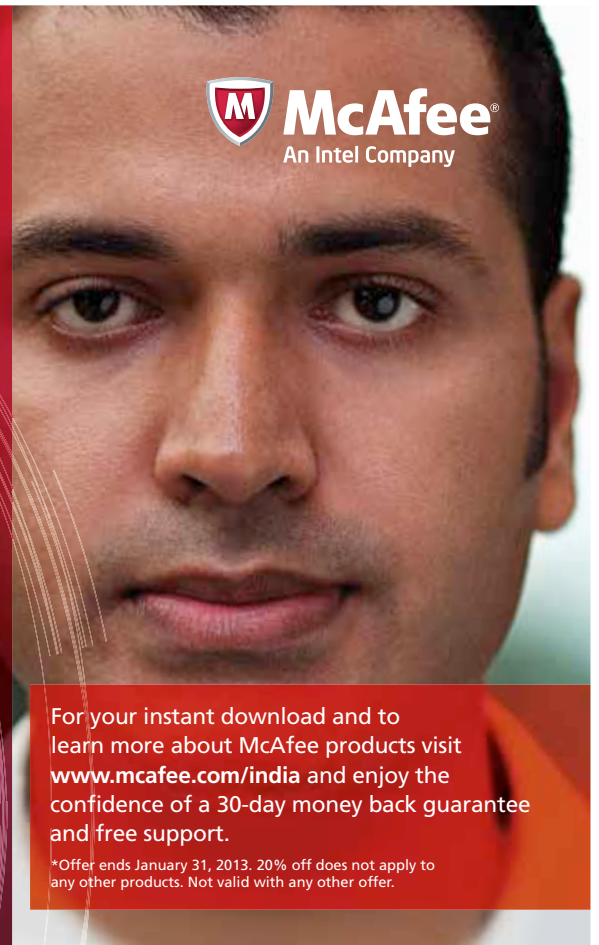


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8 GB Nexus 7

Google seems to have run out of stock of its 8 GB Nexus 7 tablet on the Google Play Store



Facebook 'want' button

Facebook is beginning to roll out tests of "want" and "collect" buttons in an attempt to bring users and retailers closer together

core processor, 2 GB of RAM, an 8 MP camera, and a 2100 mAh battery.

On the tablet front, Google might be coming out with a 32 GB version of the Nexus 7, probably pricing it the same as the current Nexus 7 that is on store shelves. We also heard that there might be a premium 10.1-inch Nexus tablet in the works made by Samsung. There is a wild rumour of a \$99 Nexus tablet as well, but don't bet all your money on that just yet. Finally, October 29 may also see the unveiling of a new Android version – Android Key Lime Pie – though this seems unlikely.

HTC J Butterfly and One X+

HTC finally unveiled its Galaxy Note rival this month, the HTC J Butterfly. It features a 5-inch 440 ppi high resolution full



HTC Butterfly J

HD 1920 X 1080 touchscreen display, and runs on Android 4.1 Jelly Bean OS with Sense 4, powered by a quad-core 1.5GHz Snapdragon S4 Pro APQ8064 processor. It has 2 GB of RAM,

and comes with 16 GB of inbuilt storage, along with a microSD card slot that supports storage upto 32GB.

There's also an 8 MP camera, which can take still images up to 3280x2464, and record videos in 1080p. The battery has a 2,020 mAh capacity. For connectivity, the HTC J Butterfly supports LTE connectivity, NFC, HDMI and Bluetooth 4.0. In the meanwhile, HTC has introduced a new version of the One X, called the One X+.

The HTC One X+ will ship with Jelly Bean right out-of-the-box. It will feature an 8 MP rear camera with an f/2.0 lens, along with a front facing 1.6 MP camera that does video at 720p @30fps. It features an NVIDIA Tegra 3 processor inside clocked at 1.7GHz, coupled with 1 GB of RAM. There is also 64 GB of inbuilt storage onboard, which is not expandable. The One X+ also includes a bigger 2,100 mAh battery, as well as Beats Audio. Europe will be seeing the new flagship from HTC hit the streets sometime later this month, but Indian availability is not yet known, as usual.

ASUS PadFone 2

ASUS has officially unveiled its next-generation smartphone-in-a-tablet, the PadFone 2. It features a 4.7-inch 720p Super IPS+ panel, a Qualcomm quad-core processor, a 13 MP BSI Sony camera sensor, as well as a 1.2 MP front camera. The camera is capable of recording 720p HD video at 60fps, and 1080p HD video at 30fps. It can also take up to 100 continuous full-resolution photos.

The device runs on Android 4.0 Ice Cream Sandwich, but ASUS has promised a Jelly Bean upgrade soon. Other notable features of the PadFone 2 include 2 GB of RAM,



ASUS Padfone 2

a 2,140mAh (fixed) battery, NFC and 50 GB of ASUS cloud storage. There's no support for microSD. For connectivity, the PadFone 2 features WCDMA 900/2,100MHz radios, and LTE 800/1,800/2,600MHz radios in the global model.

The tablet dock of the PadFone, or PadFone station has a 10.1-inch IPS display with a 1,280 x 800 pixel resolution. It is powered by a 5,000 mAh battery, and weighs in at just 514 grams. With the smartphone attached, the weight is about 649 grams, which is still more than 200 grams lighter than the original PadFone.

The PadFone 2 without the PadFone Station – the 16 GB, 32 GB and 64 GB variants – is priced between \$620 to \$750, while the phone-in-tablet combo costs an additional US \$210 to each version. The PadFone 2 will be launched before the end of December in Europe and Asia.

Indian launches

Relevantly, ASUS recently launched the PadFone in India priced at ₹64,999. The PadFone is powered by a dual-core 1.5

GHz Qualcomm Snapdragon S4 processor and has a 1 GB RAM, 32 GB of internal storage and an 8 MP digital camera with Fuji image processor, f/2.2 aperture and five-element lens.

Samsung has launched the Galaxy Note II in India, pricing it ₹39,990. The Galaxy Note II bears a 5.5-inch Super AMOLED display with a resolution of 1280x720 pixels (16:9). It is powered by a quad-core 1.6 GHz Exynos 4412 Quad processor and 2 GB of RAM, and runs on Android 4.1 Jelly Bean. It has an 8 MP auto-focus rear camera with LED flash, and a 1.9 MP front facing camera. The device comes with three storage options – 16 / 32 / 64 GB – the ₹39,990 pricing is for the 16GB version.

A billion smartphones?

A new report from the research and consulting firm Strategy Analytics says global smartphone sales have gone past the 1 billion mark – 1.038 billion to be precise – for the first time in the third quarter and the numbers are set to double by 2015-end. The figures translate into one out of every seven people globally carrying a smartphone.

“By the third quarter of 2011, we estimate there were 708 million smartphones in use worldwide. After a further year of soaring demand, the number of smartphones in use worldwide reached 1.038 billion units during the third quarter of 2012,” Scott Bicheno, a senior analyst at Strategy Analytics, said in a statement.

The researcher also points out that there's still a huge scope for the growth of smartphones with smartphone penetration relatively low in emerging markets such as China, India and Africa. ■



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Last date for applying : 8 January 2013.



Dark Souls DLC

The Artorias of the Abyss DLC for Dark Souls on Xbox 360 and PS3 is now available for download



eFun's ICS tablet

eFun has announced its new Nextbook Premium 10SE tablet that runs on Ice Cream Sandwich, and is available for \$280

Top of the mobile OS charts

We take a look at the top-rated apps on Google's Play Store and Apple's App Store

Team Digit

readersletters@thinkdigit.com

This month, we've got a list of the most popular apps and games for Android and iOS, across categories – software that has been trending on the charts for the past month. Take a good look at our selection, and if you happen to not already own any one of them – we recommend you give these stalwart app-store champions a try!

Games

Rayman Jungle Run (Android and iOS)



Ubisoft's new offering in the platformer section, Rayman Jungle Run is a touch-sensitive version of Rayman: Origins, the award winning console and PC return of Rayman, released earlier this year. With beautiful graphics immersing you into a tropical world, the venerable Rayman is your companion for the rollercoaster of a ride.

Jetpack Joyride (Android and iOS)

From the creators of Fruit Ninja, Halfbrick Studios, Jetpack Joyride has taken the mobile gaming world by storm, as an addictive side-scroller. Winner of numerous mobile game awards, players



can choose from a selection of cool jetpacks, playing the role of Barry Steakfries as he takes to the skies.

Monster Quest (iOS)

A new role-playing and strategy game on the iTunes app store, Monster Quest lets players capture, create, collect and train over four hundred



monsters, and battle them online against other players. Players assemble armies for battle and build across diverse landscapes, apart from trying their hand at over 300 quests.

Community / Networking

Loyakk (Android and iOS)

A new location-based networking app, Loyakk lets users startup conversations with people around them, or in places you want to be. It enables conversations in the context of a location or venue, without registration or check-in, allowing you to go beyond your friends. You can send private messages, or share your thoughts publically. Anonymity is optional.



InstaDM (Android and iOS)

InstaDM lets users chat with fellow Instagram users, share photos, and make new InstaDM friends. Illustrious members include SnoopDogg and T-Pain. You can follow celebrities and friends, like and repost images, curate profiles, juggle multiple Instagram accounts, and get a list of suggested users,



apart from chatting in group or private sessions.

MightyText (Android)

An innovative app that has been quite popular recently is MightyText, which lets users send SMS text messages from their



computer or tablet or Android phone. Messages will appear in inboxes from the user's Android phone number, and MightyText SMSes will stay synced with the regular Android message

inbox/outbox, apart from being stored on the cloud.

Camera

CamScanner (Android and iOS)

With CamScanner, users can turn the phone's camera into a "document scanner." It lets users digitize any paper documents by photo shooting. CamScanner can also auto-crop images, enhance image quality and create an industry standard PDF file. Scanned documents can be shared via Email, faxed or printed via Internet, uploaded to a Cloud, and managed by tagging or searching.



Vintage (iOS)

A popular alternative to Instagram, Vintage provides users with over 32 vintage filters, as well as a variety of image editing tools. Users can share edited images on Instagram, Facebook and Twitter,



with previews. The app is also highly customizable, allowing users to edit adjustment steps and textures in a filter, apart from other photo-editing options. **f**

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31/11/2012

Medal of Honor: Warfighter

The latest expansion in the Medal of Honor series finally launched, with a massive day one patch released soon after

Boeing CHAMP Missile

Boeing recently tested a missile, codenamed Counter-electronics High-powered Microwave Advanced Missile Project, capable of shutting down any electronics

The Funniest Security Breaches from the Past Decade

We have seen some serious security breaches in our time, but this time we decided to take a look at some of them which will make you go LOL

The past decade has seen quite a few massive security breaches, and in the recent past, hactivist groups have emerged – with Anonymous considered the mother-of-all. Not all hacks are perpetrated in the name of altruistic goals however – some are just for fun, and others have money as their primary motive.

Copyrightlabs vs Anonymous

Back in June, when the Indian government had forced ISPs to block access to certain P2P, torrent and video sharing sites, Anonymous had retaliated in numerous ways. Even after the ban was lifted (with the Madras High Court ruling that entire sites cannot be banned), the hacker group targeted those institutions that were still sending individual URL takedown notices to hosts.

Foremost amongst these anti-piracy proponents in India was Copyright Labs. Anonymous targeted this group by infiltrating their servers, and slyly changing their automated takedown tool's messages. Unknowingly, Copyright Labs sent out takedown notices to various sites, and was then surprised at the suddenly vicious responses – their takedown notice now contained a message from Anonymous in place of the URL:

Kudos to SFLC for following it up and trying to find out how the HC order was misused by ISPs and CopyrightLabs

*We are Anonymous you should have expected us
GTFO
best of luck sorting thousands of mails
Get a life
Nobody watches those f***** movies anyway, they are flop
You are bated all over the internet
With enough soap you can blow just about anything*

Anonymous then proceeded to take down the web sites of the Congress Party, Supreme Court, and Copyright Labs.

HBGary vs Anonymous

After Anonymous helped take down sites that had boycotted WikiLeaks in 2011 and portrayed its personnel in a negative light, global cybersecurity investigators turned their attention to the hacker group. HBGary Federal, a small startup security firm based out of California, made public its intentions to infiltrate Anonymous, with CEO Aaron Barr tweeting he had found out the identities of group leaders via social networking, and planned to announce the information at the next major security conference.

Anonymous retaliated, exposing more than 50,000 of HBGary Federal's (and its parent company's) emails, defacing the company's web site, and then releasing the so-called incriminating evidence that Barr claimed to have on Anonymous themselves, saying: "The personal details of Anonymous 'members' you think you've



HBGary website defaced by Anonymous

acquired are, quite simply, nonsense." Barr was forced to step down, and the company avoided public appearances for months. The resolution to this epic fail saga came more than a year later, when the majority of members of Anonymous and LulzSec were apprehended, in March 2012.

EA promo code leaks


The middle of October 2012 saw one of the funniest leaks in gaming history, when Electronics Arts issued a one-time promo code (which could be redeemed for Origin store game content) that could be used multiple times. The \$20 promo code, earned when answering a survey, was worth the price of a single game on EA's Origin store.

Users quickly realised that they could use the code more than once, and soon passed it around the internet. 18 hours later, by the time the code

finally became inactive, users had downloaded hundreds of games for free. While many feared retaliation by the company, Origin's community manager, Sam Houston, said EA would "honour all sales made with the coupon code over the weekend and hoped fans enjoy their games." Many users speculated this was because the company itself had no idea who had taken what.

Porn on a giant screen?

You can't make something like this up – a 40 year old unemployed Russian hacked into a giant ad screen overlooking a main road south of the Kremlin, and then uploaded a two minute pornographic clip for motorists to see. Needless to say, the clip caused mass frenzy on the highway, leading to traffic jams, and sent millions of keys tapping across the internet, to spread the news.

It's not all a laughing matter though – Rossiya-24 television reported that an elderly motorist suffered a heart attack at the wheel after seeing the clip. Police said that the 40 year-old hacked into an online company's server to do his deed. The hacker was located in southern Chechnya and the police claim that the volatile nature of the region led the hacker to believe that he would be safe there. The hacker said he wanted to "give people a laugh", the daily Kommersant reported. 

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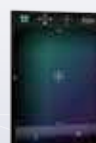


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Transhumanism

Is this the next step in human evolution? We take a closer look and find out

**SanDisk Ready Cache**

SanDisk has announced quick install client SSD caching solution to boost PC performance at ₹3,759

Gun o'clock

We've all thought of smashing the alarm clock (phone, tablet, etc) for ruining our sleep on at least one occasion – may be more. With Bandai's Gun O'clock, you can channel that early sleep-deprived surge of anger to literally shoot at the interrupting clock! How cool is that? The clock has a bullseye on top of its case and a wireless plastic gun with which to hit an infrared beam at the clock. The simplest mode is when the alarm goes off, you wake up, grab the gun and BANG! hit the target and the alarm dies; but the hardest mode expects you to hit the target five times and no doubt a great way to wake up even the heaviest of sleepers. The clock apparently has no other way to stop the alarm, so you better be a sharpshooter!



Funny products that don't cost a bomb, but worth a laugh

QuikPod

Talk about ingenuity leading to laughter and gag, and you won't be far away from the gist of this product – the QuikPod. In all honesty, it's a great tool allowing people to take photographs of themselves without relying on someone's help. This magic-photography-wand that some call a monopod tethers your camera on its end securely, just like a tripod screw stand. You can fix either a heavy DSLR or compact zoom camera on the QuikPod, hold the stick away from you a few feet and click a photo of yourself in an exotic background. Of course, if you aren't trampling through Antarctica or some remote wilderness, and you aren't a self-obsessed shutterbug, you could just as well 1) stop wasting your time, 2) request a passer by for taking a quick photo and 3) prevent yourself from being openly laughed at or ridiculed.





Acer Aspire S7

Acer launches its new Aspire S7 ultrabook flagship shipped with Windows 8 and up to 5 hours of battery life

SSL's death knell

Security researchers at Univ. of Texas at Austin and Stanford University have found serious vulnerabilities over poor APIs that implement SSL. A report <http://dgit.in/TdGdGh>

Drool maal

GoateeSaver

Good evening, Clarice. If you parade a goatee on your face, aren't a sure hand at shaving your beard, and tired of paying your friendly neighbourhood barber guy for his services, you'll need to buy this. The product's a GoateeSaver – saver, not shaver, we checked – which helps you keep your goatee intact while you go nuts rolling the razor all over that pretty face. Just don't get caught wearing the thing outside the privacy of your washroom, or you might get arrested for trying (and failing badly!) to impersonate Dr. Hannibal Lecter.



R2Q5 USB Hub

This is going to be a big hit with all Star Wars fans out there. If you haven't lived under a rock all your life, hopefully the word R2D2 won't fall on deaf ears – look up Wikipedia, for Pete's sake. With the R2Q5 – the darker version of R2D2 – we have an official memorabilia from the epic sci-fi fantasy which you can plug into your PC or laptop. What's more, it blurts out lines from the movies, too, apart from providing four USB 2.0 ports on its torso. With the R2Q5, waste no time and connect your gadgets to the Dark Side.

Horsey

Who doesn't like to accessorize their bicycle? We all do. Our idea of accessorizing our bike may not be as mind numbingly ridiculous as this so-called horse contraption, but accessorize our bike we do. Shortlisted for several design awards, Horsey is the brainchild of a designer from Korea, meant for bicycle riders who want to imagine themselves as equestrians. In the designer's own words, "Horsey is an attachable bicycle ornament/accessory which makes one's bicycle look horsey! Through this 'horsey' project. I wanted to give a special look to bicycles so that people would care about cycling not only as transportation but also as a lovely pet." And if you believe in unicorns, you just need to put an ice cream cone on the horse's head and voila!



Transhumanism: The next step in evolution?

If people really can turn in their graves, Darwin would probably be doing somersaults

Abhishek Choudhary
readersletters@thinkdigit.com

“**T**ranshumanism is a class of philosophies of life that seek the continuation and acceleration of the evolution of intelligent life beyond its currently human form and human limitations by means of science and technology, guided by life-promoting principles and values.”
 – **Max More**, 1990

Considering that the definition was coined two decades ago, it's probably safe to assume that Transhumanism is not really a new concept. But it has certainly been gaining traction with time. And probably with good reason too - if there is a new direction that we think we should be going in, this is probably the time to decide. Here, we take it upon ourselves to make sure you're in the loop on this, because it might be a genuine fork in the road, in the near future. So what really is transhumanism? Well, for starters, it is...

More than just a fancy word

A campaign pioneered by the Humanity+ community (formerly the World Transhumanist Association), it is a movement to essentially garner support for the prospect of allowing us humans to take to technology to overcome all that we consider to be wrong with the human 'condition'. Started 1998 by a couple of philosophers, Nick Bostrom and David Pearce, they are not the only proponents of the use of technology. But unlike the solely utopian visions of its now defunct 'competitor'

the Extropy Institute, Humanity+ actually understands that social dynamics of the issue are of equal, if not more concern here. That is why they are considered the better representatives of the movement that is transhumanism. Like any other pseudo-support group, they have their own magazine, the 'h+', and they hold annual TransVision conferences at exotic locations. Whatever heavy vocabulary the Humanity+ website may throw at you, the



A vision to reach our full potential

essence remains that they are the people who are making the moves to make this world home to the Terminators and Robocops that we've only known on the silver screen as of yet. We are not complaining.

Their declaration of the cause says that they think that the full power that the human form has in itself has not been harnessed efficiently yet, and that technology is the key to unlocking that potential. Their aim is to "broaden the human potential" by infusing into our very structure, developments from various fields of science, ranging from present technologies such as biotechnology and information technology, and anticipated future technologies, such as molecular nanotechnology and artificial general intelligence.

The work done is aimed at overcoming aging, cognitive shortcomings, involuntary suffering, and rather unsurprisingly, our confinement to planet Earth. Hell, for a while now executives at Humanity+ have been known to get chips implanted in their bodies to make doors open automatically for them. A minor feat, sure, but in the end, it's really about what you want from this, because, cliched as it may sound, the possibilities probably are endless. In addition to lobbying to get their chain of thought into the mainstream public thinking, they also claim to be doing extensive studies about some of the raging issues that such a promise would spawn immediately. Studies range from singularity research to the (very real) fear of extinction. While they're really just asking permission to begin making cyborgs, the idea is not a new one in itself. Humans have, from times immemorial, believed themselves to be supremely powerful and capable (and good looking). They've believed that any task that is beyond them is not because they're not up to it, it's because they haven't figured out the solution yet. And this is the single most important quality that we possess as a race - resilience. It might just be the chief reason that we've achieved so, so much in

TRANSHUMAN & POSTHUMAN

Now this is where the lines of definiteness blur, and ideas get hazy. A transhuman can broadly be defined as somebody/ something that is on its way to posthumanism, but is still sufficiently identifiable with the human condition. A posthuman is everything we're not. A form of life that so exceedingly bests anything that we mere humans have to offer, that it simply cannot be called human at all. The proper definition even states that posthumans might constitute conscious artificial intelligence. Woah, trippy!

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H+: The Digital Series

It is a web series that explores the possibilities of a futuristic world, where Transhumanism is mainstream <http://dgit.in/RPtLG>



The Singularity

Watch the man who defined transhumanism itself - an interview from Max More, touching everything transhuman <http://dgit.in/XOPLd9>



The possibilities are endless(ly scary)

our time on Earth, that many other species failed to come even close to. The technological aspect might be a relatively new kid on the block, but the search to find the 'key' to 'unlocking our potential' has gone on for centuries, and then some. The great legends of the Fountain of youth, the Elixir of life, and the ilk, along with all of our parallel 'superhero' universes just go on to show how much we love the idea of being inherently better than what we are today. So, in conclusion, Transhumanism is really just taking the process of evolution by the scruff of its neck, guiding it to make us what we want to become (in this lifetime), and tailoring our body, right from the micro-level gene mutations (which are actually more serious) to the macro body hacks like vision and sensory implants, or artificial limbs and such. This fast-tracking of the process - an override attempt at what we assume to be nature's work, and an endeavour at playing God with whatever power science has bestowed upon us - might not be the smartest move here. But, as a race, we've achieved so much success in the fields where we just dived in head-first, that this is really an incredibly logical step, if you think about it. We reached where we are by co-operating with nature in one way or the other. If we could really end up controlling it, the possibilities are nigh endless.

But you should probably avoid the agenda, because...

Of the potential suffering, on multiple levels. Let us take them one by one. First, the micro level - your level. Now, this is basically an experiment - there's no defined set of modifications that would make you a transhuman, or one that could, with any degree of certainty, put you on the road to posthumanism. Also, as with any

ongoing project, this might all fail, and the early adopters might be reduced to little more than roadside freakshows. Or at worst it might kill you with some as-of-yet undiscovered issues that the concept might spawn. There might be specific problems with specific transformations, too. Who knows, really? The point is, there's absolutely no point in jumping in, if many, many people don't jump into this together.

Then there's the bigger problem - the politicality of it all. Now, maybe it's just us, but any group that confer to themselves and their identities as "we transhumanists," "promoting the movement," "supporting the philosophy" and "ascribing to the worldview" smack of a community who consider themselves to be a cult. Not the best way to identify yourself, if you are hoping to eventually be a global phenomenon. Again, maybe it's just us, but cults are probably not the way forward. Not unless we want to be living in the dystopic cases that are painted with generous amounts of eerie in novels like George Orwell's 1984.



On a plus side, six-packs would probably be a push of a button away

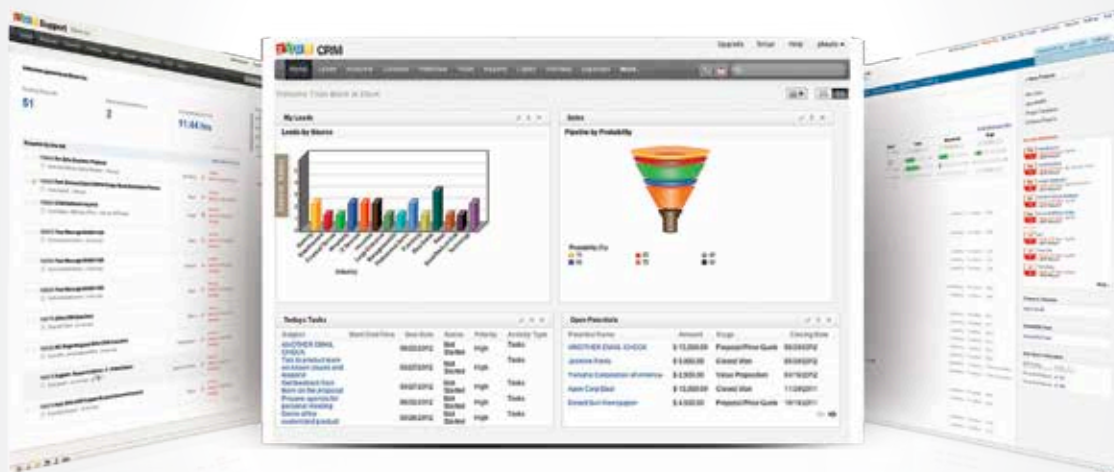
Also, there is the 'community' part to be considered. The way that it is being propagated, the push is being made for every human to decide for himself the changes that he/she wants to implement over themselves. Not to say that choice is bad, but consider that this might cause such discrepancies throughout the community, that we might not remain compatible with each other. Obviously, money will play its part

WHERE WE'RE AT:

- A woman called Lepht Anonym has been implanting herself with mineral and metallic implants in order to feel electric and magnetic fields. She is confident of finding a way to sense the magnetic north soon.
- Researchers have discovered that life can actually be used as a raw material for development. They've created a human ear from bovine (cow) tissues, which was 'cultivated' on a rodent.
- Artists have found novelty in modifying the human form. Surgeries, robotic third arms, flesh-hook suspensions and prosthetics commonplace in some circles.
- People have been implanting themselves with magnets, just so that they can get metallic objects attracted to their body. Even we're stumped about the "why" of it all.

too. And we all know that when money comes into the consideration, any prevalent sense of it being a level playing field is vanished. Now, this world, already horrifically crooked towards the rich, would be out of reach for the mango people. Nothing, from academics to art or sports would remain sacred. A transhuman (billionaire, of course) Mr. Burns could slash Usain Bolt's record of the fastest 100m time, assuming that Mr. Bolt does not throw comparable money upon himself too. Then there are more basic things to consider - things like reproduction, social harmony, world peace, and what not. Come to think of it, a planet full of futuristic, ageless Greek Gods would have a hard time controlling the population, energy requirements, law and order, and everything else that ties our social fabric together. Off the top of our heads, the sort of issues that seemingly arise would require the kind of poise and finesse for their handling that we haven't really seen our leaders display in recent times... or ever. And this is when they are ruling plain old humans. Controlling a population of superhumans might be a different proposition altogether. We're not saying that we're entirely against the concept. We just think that meeting up in closed circles, and in dark political undertones is not the way to do it. Maybe we should give it a little more time, let it sort out some of its issues. Just food for thought. Lots of food for some serious thought... **[1]**

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Is it a bird? Is it a plane? Yep it is.

A Look At the Aircraft Designs Of The Future

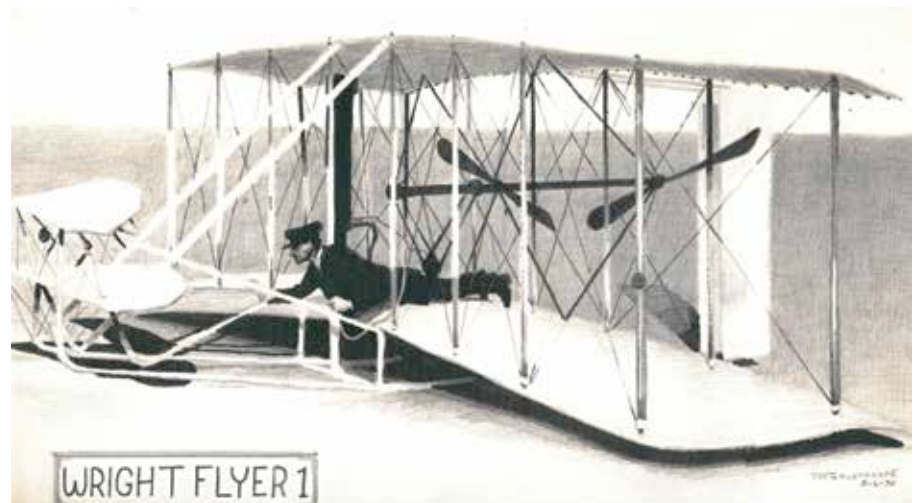
Abhishek Choudhary
readersletters@thinkdigit.com

Futuristic aircraft, the way they are presented in the cartoons and movies is far from realistic. But that is not to say that the future of manned flight would not be radically different from what we know of them today. On the right is what we started out with, when the world was taking its first steps in our journey to the heavens. Not to put the design or the creators down by any measure, but Wright brothers did not have the best of designs for sustained flying. Come to think of it, long flight wasn't their purpose, either - they just needed to show that it could be done, in order to spur the rest of the world into action. And spur into action it did.

Now look at the image below. This is what the majority of mankind thinks of, when words like "plane", "flight" or "air travel" are mentioned. And no wonder, either (sorry helicopters, but we'll come back at you later), because as it turns out, aircraft that are roughly based on this design in the world dwarf the ones which aren't by something like 5:1. These are incredibly useful machines, but these designs aren't really the most efficient. Philosophically speaking, they accurately reflect everything that is wrong with the world, and everything that is leading us to, among other things, supremely high fuel prices. The basic idea here seems to be that if you throw enough engine power at something, it will fly (and fly it does). So we just attach super-high-powered engines at



Usually "Airplane" means this



We've come a long way from this haven't we?

something that will create an obstruction in the path of air, and air will essentially toss it up. This is the same principle by which vehicles, homes and – in a surprisingly high number of cases – cows fly in the event of hurricanes. Doesn't paint a pretty picture, does it now?

What the future holds

It doesn't really take much of a genius in aircraft design to figure out that it is really only the wings of the general aircraft that do the flying. The rest of the body just tries to keep as much out of the air's way as it can. There it is - Aerodynamics 101. So obviously, when tasked with producing more efficient aircraft design, the first shot will be at eradicating the notion of the wings and the body in a plane - just one huge, flying wing. And to think that this is a new design concept would be a huge disrespect to the man who pioneered the idea as early as 1910; one Mr. Hugo Junkers. A German engineer by trade, he quickly realised that a clean flying wing is the most aerodynamically efficient design configuration, and therefore the best way forward (being an intelligent man, he patented the design too). The issues at the time, of stability (or lack, thereof) and impossible navigation requirements, have now

been tackled effectively with the advent of drive-by-wire techniques in flight, which is just fancy talk for computer aided flight. That is the reason the flying wings have made a respectable comeback in the race to become the core design for the future, in addition to being already operational in some capacity for many years now. The future definitely looks good for this design in the subsonic arena, at least.

Of course, as a parallel to the flying wing design thought-chain, we could say that if, for some reason, we want to avoid making everything one single wing based-design, we could just go on adding the number of wings on our current models. This seems to be the motivation behind the boxed wing concept, where a huge, wing-based structure encapsulates the entire basic aircraft structure, and its edges all act like separate wings. In addition to reducing the drag of the overall configuration, it handles the sta-



The flying wing in the commercial space



The Flying Shuriken

Watch this video to know exactly how the shuriken shaped aircraft (SBDiDir-FW) flies: <http://dgit.in/RdeyJc>

From the Labs

bility issues pretty well (though it does not add much in the name of futuristic looks, and loses out on drool points).

Our next design - the Double Bubble D3 has taken a different direction, in terms of employing the latest in noise reduction strategies. An aircraft's noise might have two sources - the aerodynamic fluctuations by the flight, or the mechanical noise from the engines itself. What this design hopes to achieve is that the craft has the ability to stabilise itself by design, and not by power, which results in lesser air resistance and therefore, reduces on the aerodynamic fluctuations. It also manages to further channelise sound by placing a spherical plate to guard the underside of the engine, which reflects the mechanical noise straight back up to the heavens, because hey, the big guy upstairs doesn't care.



The boxed winged concept

Now, for some fantasy talks. Apart from simply making aircraft look suitably futuristic, plans are in motion to give them some mind blowing capabilities too. How about a plane that can mutate its shape during flight? Fans of anime will instantly recognize the image to closely resemble the shuriken. A team from the University of Miami have created this idea to bridge the compromise that is flying supersonic. The key here is the wingspan. Subsonic flight requires better wings to ensure efficient output from the power being pumped from the engines for the push. But, things change radically when something crosses Mach-1. Aerodynamics at it again, now the wings need to be as subdued as possible (along with everything else), to ensure stability during the flight. Up until now, designs were hard-built as a mixture of them both. But this new design, which has been given a nod (and some \$100,000 in grant) by NASA as part of it's Innovative Advanced Concepts (NIAC) design



MIT's Double Bubble D8 design

competition, is a completely new take on the way in which the airborne vehicle should transform to adapt to the change in supersonic to subsonic speeds, and vice-versa. The radical part of the idea is that the aircraft will take off and land in one direction, while its flight will logically be at in a direction perpendicular to that. The supersonic bi-directional flying wing (SBDiDir-FW) aircraft would rotate into supersonic configuration by folding winglets attached to the end of the wings in subsonic configuration. Folding them up again would see the aircraft rotate back again to subsonic orientation once again. The engine pod on the midsection would also be rotated in the opposite direction when switching modes, so that the orientation of the engine remains the same during the transition, in order to conserve the kinetic energy of the plane.

Tying up loose ends, we'd like to touch upon something that is probably at the undertone of it all. There's a strange sense of homecoming in all of these designs. When you take a close, analytical look at the designs they seem, in some way or the other, to be trying to model the natural



You'll be riding Ninja stars soon

practitioners of flight more and more closely. Birds, bugs, whatever (and we sometimes imagine dinosaur in there too), but finally the world agrees that the best way to do it is the way that it has been done for thousands of years. What should have been obvious is now in the fore. There's a strange sense of homecoming to the future, when you think about it.



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Ammo visualisation

Google made this wonderful visualisation of arms and ammo import and export across countries. <http://dgit.in/Ripe9m>

Big Data Goes official

The Obama Administration announced the Big Data Research and Development Initiative, to understand use of big data in troubleshooting govt problems

Big data = Big opportunities?

All those bits and bytes do add up to a lot

Spandan Sharma
readersletters@thinkdigit.com

The 2002 science-fiction movie *Minority Report* showed a special police unit that is able to arrest murderers before they commit their crimes. In another case of science-fiction turning into science-fact, a team led by well-known technology innovators Donnie Fowler and Zach Friend in association with the Santa Cruz (California) police department, have managed to create a similar set-up. However, rather than relying on psychic humans, they decided to harness the power of something called Big Data. This new field of study enabled them to mine vast amounts of crime data from the city, and use it to set up a system that, quite frankly, can only be described as uber-cool. Called “predictive policing” or PredPol, the system has seen great success in the iconic city of Santa Cruz, with property theft dropping 19 per cent in the first six months of 2012, compared to the same timeframe in 2011, when the technology was not being used. This, without adding more officers to the workforce, or changing beat and shift timings.

What is Big Data?

Wikipedia has the following to say about Big Data, “In information technology, big data is a collection of data sets so large and complex that it becomes difficult to process using on-hand database management tools. The challenges include capture, curation, storage, search, sharing, analysis, and visualization.” Straightforward enough. Essentially, Big Data means any collection/segment of data so large that analyzing it using “regular” data management systems becomes nigh impossible.

But how large is “too large”? For most people, a few terabytes is more than they can handle. For a small or medium-sized firm, 300-500 TB might be the limit that



Meet Big Data, the next big thing in Information Technology

stretches their data management capacity. What about very large global outfits and multinational corporations? By recent estimates, Google processes about 24 petabytes of data in a day (1 petabyte = 1000 terabytes = 1 million gigabytes). That means by the end of 2012, Google would have processed roughly 8760 petabytes of data. Such astronomical figures are beyond the comprehension of most people, yet these are essentially what form the basic premise of Big Data.

Big Data definitions are therefore quite subjective, depending on the communities/organizations concerned. However, all definitions are based on three basic parameters: Volume (how much data...), Variety (...of what kinds...) and Velocity (...is received at what speed.) In recent times, data analysts have also agreed to include Virtual as a parameter, thereby largely restricting the definition of data/information to what is stored digitally in filesystems and data systems globally.

DATA = CURRENCY?

- “Data is the new oil.” Coined in 2006 by Clive Humby, a British data commercialization entrepreneur, this now famous phrase was embraced by the World Economic Forum in a 2011 report, which considered data to be an important economic asset, like oil.
- From the beginning of recorded history until 2003, we created 5 exabytes (5 billion gigabytes) of data. In 2011, the same amount was created every two days. By 2013, it's expected that the time will shrink to 10 minutes.

Why should you care?

Most of the times, Big Data is useful only to large corporations and companies looking to better understand consumer behaviour and market trends, and utilize that knowledge to smoothen their work practises, cater to the precise needs and tastes of the markets, and make a tidy profit along the way. After all, an average Joe has no use for the kind of knowledge Big Data can furnish, correct? Well, both right, and wrong.

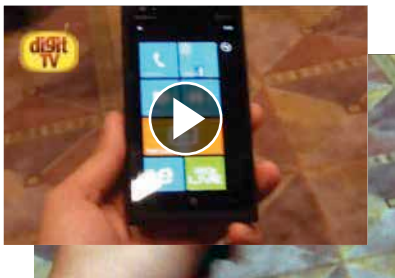
Big Data in fact can be very useful to even the common man not interested in extensive number crunching, by simply



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Big Data Research

The US State of Massachusetts announced the Big Data Initiative, to give state government and private funding for Big Data research.



Facebook's Project Prism

Facebook announced development of a new initiative - Prism - to help it better deal with the tonnes of data it generates everyday.

letting him learn more about the world he lives in. And this can happen in two ways – directly or indirectly.

Directly, Big Data can help you understand your surroundings better by providing new insights about everyday stuff that you might not be aware of normally. For example, consumers frequently pay their utility bills without realizing how much exactly each instrument in their home consumes. MacArthur Fellow Shwetak Patel decided to find a solution to this problem. He realized that most devices used today have unique digital signatures that can be detected with basic wireless sensors. Patel created an algorithm which, along with a sensor placed anywhere in the house, gives users inexpensive visual feedback about which devices use the greatest amount of electricity and how to conserve the wasted amount. Utilizing Big Data, Patel has empowered common consumers with the information they need to make better decisions that help them in improving the quality of their lives.



Big Data can help us learn stuff about ourselves we never imagined

Big Data analysis has also helped greatly in furthering knowledge in fields like the health sciences. Researchers John Guttag and Collin Stultz, along with Zee-shan Syed, have created a computer model to analyze discarded electro cardiography (EKG) data of heart attack patients, while Sheila Nirenberg of Weill Cornell Medical College has found a way to artificially recreate the complex code seen by a healthy retina upon seeing an image using massive amounts of data based on multiple studies and diagnoses of retinal diseases. The former stands to signifi-



Smarter Cities is an initiative by IBM which uses Big Data to assist city administrations

cantly improve today's risk-screening techniques for patients vulnerable to repeat heart attacks while the latter has led to the creation of custom software, embedded into microprocessors and cameras, that can be used to build eyeglasses that will help patients of severe retinal disease regain their vision.

Big Data can also be helpful in improving governance and creating better, smarter infrastructure. Information running into massive streams of data is generated daily by the digital utility services common in most cities today, which if properly harnessed can completely change the way authorities manage civic systems. Equipped with tools to analyze data for better decisions, anticipate problems to resolve them proactively and co-ordinate resources to operate effectively, smarter cities, and their administrations, are the drivers of economic growth and progress for society at large. The process of equipping cities with such facilities has already begun through initiatives like IBM's Smarter Cities. The IBM Smarter Cities initiative is an attempt to use Big Data to help make significant changes in the way city administrations approach their responsibilities. Utilizing the wealth of information revealed by Big Data about how cities tick, the initiative plans to make the jobs of officials easier and smoother, while giving citizens better standards of living through more efficient services. These are just some of the myriad

ways Big Data will help improve the world of everyone in general, not just the corporations and departments interested in data development. A conglomerate of individuals and companies recently launched The Human Face of Big Data initiative, in a bid to let common people understand how exactly Big Data can be useful to them. Using crowd-sourced information based on apps for smartphones, this initiative is helping people understand the wealth of information available to them through Big Data, and bringing them closer in the process. The apps contain a series of questions across categories, such as your Demographic, your opinions about friends, family, yourself, etc. Answering the questions truthfully creates a unique "signature" for you via your smartphone. The app then lets you compare your answers with the general trend of answers given by other users who've used the app on their smartphones, even finding your "data doppelganger" for you, someone whose

HOW BIG IS BIG DATA

- 247 billion emails are sent every day. (Up to 80 per cent are spam.)
- Every hour, we create enough Internet traffic to fill 7 billion DVDs. Side by side, that's seven times the height of Everest.
- There are 133 million blogs on the web.
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Samsung Display ends deal

Samsung Display has reportedly decided to end its deal with Apple, stopping the supply of LCD panels to its longtime partner



Updated LinkedIn Blackberry app

LinkedIn finally updated its app available on Blackberry devices, making it compatible with BB6 and BB7, and adding several new features

personality most matches yours, based on the data generated by your answers. Just a small example of the many possibilities that open up by analysing Big Data.

Analysing crime report patterns to help predict crimes before they happen, using call frequency analysis to understand consumer behaviour and give them better services – the potential for the use of Big Data are endless. If we end up eventually living in a world that runs primarily on the information generated by the analysis of Big Data, it will hopefully bring us closer as a race, as we learn more about the people around us and across the world, and use that information to bridge the gaps between us and overcome our differences.

Big is not necessarily always better

Big Data is generated through many methods, out of which one of the most common is “data mining”. What it essentially means is that once you have massive amounts of information, you can mine that information and discover new patterns and relationships that you’re not aware of normally, because you cannot compute at that level on an average basis. This has given rise to the term “macro-scope” – like a telescope or a microscope – which means looking at data to discover new patterns that were never known/seen before. And that may pose a problem.

OUR BIG DATA

- 80 per cent of all humans own a mobile phone of some sort. Out of 5 billion mobiles, 1 billion are smartphones. (In Singapore, 54 per cent of citizens are smartphone users.)
- 60 per cent of all humans (5.4 billion people) are active texters. In 2010, 193,000 text messages were sent every second.
- 50 per cent of 5-year-old kids in the U.S. are given access to a smartphone.
- 10 per cent of all photos ever taken were taken in 2011.

When companies gather information about consumers, they collect a wide variety of it, ranging from personal information to buying patterns to even eating habits and medical problems.

Correlating this data lets them establish new patterns and find new information, such as deducing that a customer is pregnant (sometimes before family and friends know) based on her purchases and patterns in her behaviour (this actually happened in the United States where well-known retail chain Target identified pregnant customers by the above method and then sold them baby products). Creepy enough? It can get worse.

Big Data incentivises collection and longer safekeeping of data, leading to massive storage banks of potentially private and confidential data that consumers might be uncomfortable sharing otherwise. Using this data to draw conclusions about the consumers would violate their sense of privacy. And this gives companies greater incentive to reveal minimal amount of the data they might actually be generating and storing on you.

Use of data mining by law enforcement is another matter altogether. Labelling someone as a potential criminal before they have done anything, based on data generated from behaviour patterns, turns the entire concept of human rights and justice on its head. One can no longer claim innocence till proven guilty, as your guilt would be established even before the crime on the basis of what you’ve been doing over the past months. Try wrapping your head around that concept.

Big Data also has the potential to tilt the scales in the favour of big organizations with access to it, and away from individuals and common people who might not have the resources needed to gain access to Big Data, let alone analyze it. Economically speaking, it can allow big companies to gain unfair advantages over smaller competitors who do not have access to the same kind of information. It also holds a lot of potential for manipulation and misuse of data – if a store knows exactly how much I can afford to spend on a product, how much I know about

competitive prices in the marketplace, and how badly I need/want the product, it can use this information to its advantage and derive the maximum possible profit from me. Literally, milk me for all I’m worth.

Big Data can also be a divisive catalyst in most socio-economic scenarios. By amplifying existing advantages and disadvantages, Big Data has the potential to further widen the gap between the haves and the have-nots. Those who are savvy and well-educated, with ‘positive’ Big Data, are likelier to get better treatment from governments as well as private



Shwetak Patel's efforts prove how useful Big Data can be to everyday people

companies, as compared to those who are poor, ‘underprivileged’, and with some form of negative Big Data, like a criminal record for petty theft. The latter will be identified easily, and might face prejudices, thereby restricting their chances of rehabilitation into society, and further increasing stratification in society.

Summing it up...

As is evident, Big Data has enormous potential for improvement our understanding of us as an evolving species, and predicting future trends with increasing accuracy. But, there are a lot of problems – ethical and otherwise – embedded in the process of using Big Data, that need to be properly addressed before it is adopted wholeheartedly. Until we can manage to find the right balance between these two sides, a wary and controlled approach is perhaps the best way to adopt for the world of wonders that Big Data can unlock for us. **1**



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Saturn's burp

The aftermath of a massive storm in Saturn, resulted in a huge increase of ethylene gas. In other words, Saturn burped!

WPI 2013

NASA-WPI 2013 registrations have opened and include a first prize of over \$1.5 million

Welcome to the moon!

A trip to the moon, a stay in the 7-star Hotel Clavius in the Sea of Tranquility. If such a future exists, what will it be like? Read on to find out more

Anirudh Regidi
anirudh.regidi@thinkdigit.com

The Hotel Clavius is painstakingly made with some of the finest moon glass ever produced and as a vacation destination, is unmatched. Wouldn't you like to revisit the place where man's first step to interplanetary travel was taken?

The journey begins

Your holiday of a lifetime begins with a trip to the Kennedy Space Centre, where you need to undergo a training program which is essential for to ensure your safety in space.

During your stay you will be put up in the Florida Olympian, one of the premiere hotels in our chain, where you will have all the amenities you could ask for,

including a dedicated limousine to take you back and forth from the Space Centre during your training.

Physical training

The 3 week training program is rigorous, but not exhausting and you can think of it as a slightly more rigorous health spa. Throughout the training program you will have some of our best doctors and psychiatrists to ensure your mental and physical well-being. Don't worry though, you won't really have to exert yourself so much once you get to the moon.

Space!

The day of the launch is really something special. The bone jarring vibrations of the thrust motors kicking in, followed by the smooth, effortless power of the massive, 24 million newtons of thrust

carrying you into space at incredible speeds. Within 15 minutes, you'll be outside the Earth's atmosphere and orbiting in LEO (Low Earth Orbit) in the calm and still blackness of interstellar space. This time will be used for acclimatization and training in actual zero gravity.

The rendezvous with the International Orbital Platform-1 (IOP- 1) is entirely automated and you'll be transferred directly to the Japanese Shizukesa module and propelled via the Indian S-200 rocket motor. The flight to the moon will be relatively quick and should be completed within 24 hours, at the end of which, you will dock with the lunar orbital space dock

and finally proceed to Clavius base via the SR-1 landing capsule.

I'm on the moon!

The descent, while a bit jarring during the landing phase, will be quite uneventful. Given the low atmosphere of the moon, there will not be any buffeting and vibrations that would be expected in a normal re-entry on Earth. The capsule will land directly in the Sea of Tranquility, not far from the place where Neil Armstrong first set foot on the moon! The landing craft will put you down at Tranquility spaceport, from where you will be transferred to a waiting rover that will take you to the hotel.

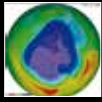
Hotel Clavius

You will be taken to Hotel Clavius, the largest, most expensive and technologically advanced hotel ever built by man. The vast, imposing dome structure, designed by world renowned architect, Lunna Attic, covers 13 square kilometres and is made from an intricate network of very fine carbon-fibre tubing glass made from the surface of moon itself. The entire surface is covered by moon dust to provide insulation and also to keep out the exceptionally harsh sunlight. Day temperatures on the moon can reach over a 100 C, with the night's reaching a bone-chilling -230 C and you would alternately freeze or burn if it weren't for that insulation.

The hotel is strategically located in the Sea of Tranquility, built over the spot where mankind first set foot on the moon. Originally designed to be only a bare bones dome to preserve the one of the most important moments in recorded history, the dome went on to become a museum, and living quarters for lunar miners; the dome was eventually redesigned to make the largest hotel ever made by man. This was possible, in part, due to the low gravity at the lunar surface. Visitor's to



The start of an incredible vacation



A smaller hole

The hole in the ozone layer seems to be slowly shrinking as scientists have finally observed the second-smallest hole they've seen in 20 years

Something's fishy here

A new batch of crew arrived at the ISS this month, bringing with them 32 extra members, Japanese medaka fish for the aquarium

the hotel are first greeted by the sight of the venerable Lunar Descent module, and the old American flag (replanted now that the moon was colonized). The footsteps of the first astronauts are there for everyone to see as well and are covered in foot-high glass so people can actually walk the same path as Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin. The hotel, being such a large structure, is prone to meteorite impacts and there have been incidents in the past when the debris from passing asteroids has peppered the dome and once, almost resulted in a catastrophic failure of the structure. The dome has since been upgraded with the state of the art, Arclite defense grid that consists of no less than 7 Arc lite mkII radars and 6, independently controlled OverArc cannons capable of vapourising a 40km diameter asteroid at a distance of 300 kms using tactical nukes and pulsed lasers. There are many smaller

guns and cannons fitted to the system for some more close range defense. Also, the few feet of lunar dust that cover the dome are quite capable of absorbing the impact of any minor meteorite that might escape.

Day 1: Lunar tour

After breakfast, guests will be taken on a guided tour of the lunar colony and the infrastructure associated with it. Our first stop, being the closest, will be a visit to the lunar museum, where you will be shown some of the primitive gear used by the astronauts at the time of the early Apollo missions, including primitive seismographs and the original Hasselblad camera that was used to take pictures of the moon.

After the tour, all guests will be equipped with space suits, tracking beacons and wireless cameras (for your safety) and will then be taken to the LunaCorp's mining facilities just 90kms

from the Hotel. The journey will take place via maglev transport and will be accomplished in under 15 minutes. Lunch will be served at the LunaCorp mess and we will be given a tour of the facilities. After the trip, you will be taken back to the hotel where you will be free for the rest of the day.

LunaCorp Mining facility

This sprawling facility covers over a million square miles and is in fact, the largest "farm" in the solar system, and is managed by a staff of barely 2,000 employees. These employees, mainly maintenance engineers, are responsible for the care of over 8,000 harvesters. These harvesters are not very different from the combine-harvesters we used to use for farming on Earth. Their primary job is to mine out the surface of the moon and extract Helium 3 from the regolith on the surface. These

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Lost and found

NASA's Spitzer space telescope spotted some tell-tale infrared background radiation that could indicate the presence of ancient stars

Hybrid capsule

NASA is currently testing space capsules with attached helicopter wings for better descent control

harvesters each process millions of tonnes of regolith every year, to produce thousands of tonnes of Helium 3, which is then shipped off to Earth via a mass driver and orbital collector mechanism. The entire process is entirely automated and the harvesters follow very precise paths that are monitored remotely.

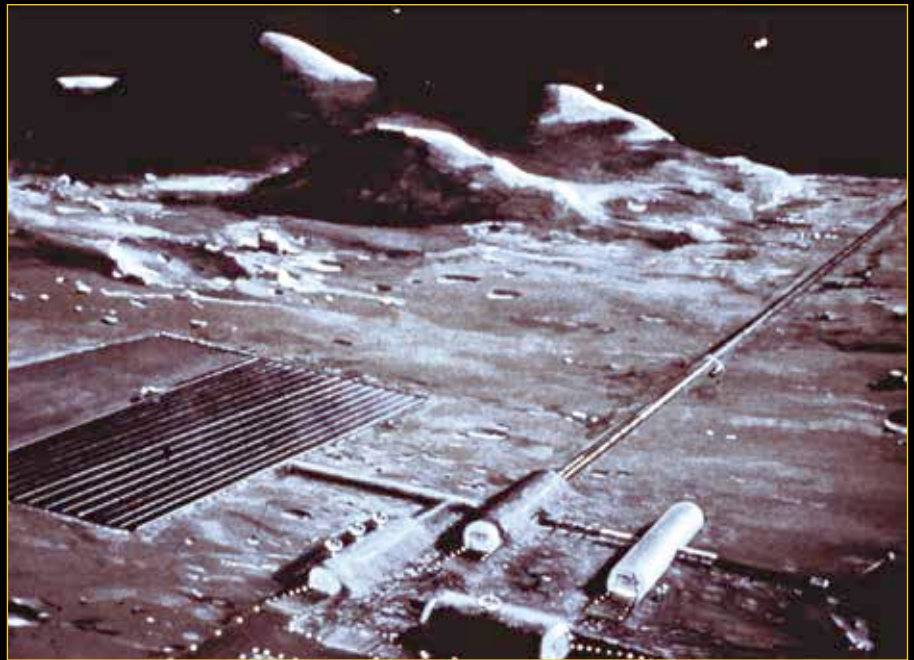
The entire, partly processed ore is wrapped up in a large, plastic bag of sorts before being sent off to the "magazine". The magazine is where the ore parcels (called pellets) are wrapped in foil and then loaded into the mass driver. The mass driver, powered by the energy from vast solar arrays on the poles, is a feat of engineering in itself. With a total build cost of over \$18 billion, it is the single most expensive cannon ever produced. The device uses magnetic levitation and accelerates the package to mach 25 (1 mach measured as the speed of sound at sea level on Earth in this case). Since this is the moon and escape velocities are so low, the package can easily escape the moon's gravitational force and is launched into a High Earth Orbit.

Ships from the one of the 10 IOPs will rendezvous with the packages at regular intervals, usually at weekly intervals, where they will round up the packages one after the other, fit them with parachutes and retro-boosters and return to the IOP. The boosters will then be triggered remotely and will guide the packages back to Earth for reentry. The precision required and, actually achieved, is quite staggering, with only 1 in 10,000 packages missing their designated drop-zones by more than 2 miles. These packages are almost priceless in value, providing clean energy for the Earth, each package capable of running a country the size of UK for a few weeks at a time.

After the package is retrieved, the boosters are inspected, refuelled, and launched to one of the IOPs for reuse. A very energy efficient process considering the elaborate process that is involved.

Day 2: Hydroponic farms

The second day will involve a trip to the moon's hydroponic farms that are present near the poles of the moon. The journey will be a long one and will involve a maglev



A lunar mass driver capable of incredible acceleration in the low gravity

train ride that will take a few hours. All facilities, including entertainment will be provided on the train so you will have quite a relaxed and pleasant journey.

LunaCorp farms

Hydroponic farms were the only and inevitable, viable farming option on the moon. Given the scarcity of water on the lunar surface, this was the only method that could conserve and recycle water to the degree that we would like. This method of farming involves no soil and barely any water, which is absolutely perfect for the limited resources available on the moon. The poles were the obvious choice given that that was where all the water was (frozen though it may be), and also where the day night cycles at least resembled the Earth's, in part. The food production has been refined over the last few decades and long gone are the days when astronauts had to depend on concoctions made from green algae and now you can get everything from potatoes to rice and wheat and even fruits. The food isn't that delectable of course, but that is more to do with the low gravity messing with your taste buds than anything else.


The food in the hotel is shipped directly from Earth though. As you would have

noticed, it's primarily a vegan diet here. Hardly appealing to everyone's palate wouldn't you agree?

Day 3: LunarSat

Day 3 will take you on a tour of the observatories setup on the moon, again, these are at the poles. Each telescope costs over a billion dollars, but these, along with the vast arrays of radio telescopes, are some of the most advanced ever devised by man. The almost negligible atmosphere and the relatively fixed position of the poles are absolutely ideal for peeking into the dark recesses of space. The scientists here are extremely possessive about their instruments, with good reason of course, so you will only be allowed to visit the science centre and will be given a tour of the facilities from the outside. These telescopes and radars are not just meant for space exploration. Many of these form the first line of defence against asteroids.

Have a pleasant stay

That's it! After these first 3 days of tours, you're free to do whatever you like! The hotel has many activities including "lunar treasure hunt", "Luney Races" with lunar buggies and don't forget to visit Disney's theme park at the Moretus crater. The complete, family holiday destination! 

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Tips and Tricks

This month we look at Adobe Speedgrade CS6 and JDownloader and more

Viper SmartStart app

Viper's SmartStart 3.0 app, lets iPhone users use Siri to perform many remote functions on their car, including starting it

Mysterious shortcuts, incorrect settings and faulty motherboards...

Digit solves all your queries

Q Corrupt pen drive

I'm facing a problem related to my pen drive. I have important data on it in the form of folders and files but due to a virus attack, all my files have been converted into shortcuts. Please assist me in accessing my data.

Ashish Arora

A If you happened to click on the shortcuts in the pen drive then it's very likely that your entire PC is infected by now. We strongly recommend first installing an anti-virus such as Avast (present on the Digit DVD), update it and then run a full boot-time scan. If you don't do that, then there's a very high probability that every pen drive you insert will get infected. After running the boot-time scan, ensure that autorun is disabled (or at least, press "shift") while inserting the pen drive into your PC. Scan the pen drive with the anti-virus suite you've installed and hopefully, it should be able to detect and take care of the virus. If that doesn't work, head over to <http://digit.in/SaZJ7K> and download and install the program and run a scan again.

To check if your original files are still in the pen drive, open command prompt

by hitting "Win+R". Type "CMD" and press the enter key. Now type "attrib -h -r -s /s /d x:*.*" (where x is the drive letter for your pen drive) and hit enter. After that, scan the pen drive, open it and recover your files.

Under no circumstances should you click on the shortcuts or your PC will be infected again.

Q Waiting for a signal

I'm writing to you for a solution to a problem I've been facing often these days. My PC turns on and all the LEDs and fans run. The HDD runs and the DVD tray ejects when the button is pressed. The only thing is, it doesn't boot and shows "No Signal" on my monitor and then it goes blank. This problem has happened with onboard VGA or extra GPU installed (in few cases). In most cases, I have resolved this issue by cleaning, RAM slot change and BIOS reset. Recently, I faced this problem with a desktop having an MSI (G41M P26), dual core CPU, 2 GB RAM, iBall chassis with 450 watt PSU (bundled). I tried all the mentioned methods but no success. Then I tested the RAM and PSU which works fine with other board / PC. CPU seems okay. So I'm wondering whether the mobo VGA is gone bad. Use of graphics card or the VGA port (where there's a graphics card installed) yield no success.

My query is, is there any other trick/method to resolve this problem or is it better to change the motherboard? Please help me ASAP. Waiting for your reply eagerly.

Prasanta Das

A You might want to check the BIOS and see what setting the display adapter has. Sometimes boards come with a default setting of Auto i.e. the board checks both, the on-board display port as well as the display card display ports. Sometimes if the mobo setting is set to on-board

graphics, then if you connect your monitor display cable to your discrete card, the monitor won't get a signal as according to the BIOS setting it will only look at the on-board display port.

Q An alternative to Gmail

I'd really appreciate if you could help me resolve the issue of sending mail with more than 25 MB worth of data since Gmail can only handle that much. Can you please suggest some alternative way to send data by mail? Thank you in advance.

Sasi Kanth

A You can use any of the following sites www.dropsend.com, www.yousendit.com



DropSend homepage screenshot

or www.ge.tt which allow you to attach files larger than 25 MB and have them sent across to any mail ID. DropSend and Ge.tt allow you to send upto 2 GB of data as a free user. YouSendIt offers you 2 GB storage and upto 50 MB data can be sent at a time. It has a free 14-day trial period though which allows you the benefits of its Pro Plus plans. After you have sent your attachment, the recipient will get the link from where s/he can download the attachments.

Q Analysing surveys

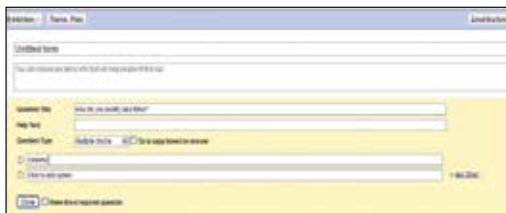
Recently, my college gave me a project – a survey to be conducted on students and teachers. I'm done with the survey and have



Avast is a free anti-virus software

all the responses in the form of paper. Now I wish to input them into a computer and analyse the data. Please help me with this. Suggest me a good database software, by which I can store that data digitally as well as analyse it.

Akash Manvar



Serializing	Name	Correctly spelling	Strengths	Goal	Comprehensive Strategy	Other
60002 14:38:54	Jim	Wizard of Oz	Fluency	Comprehension	Done	Confidence
60002 14:36:55	Vijay	The Great Gatsby	Awareness	Vocabulary	Vocabulary	Check for Understanding
60002 14:59:52	Jessica	Wheel of Fortune	Fluency	Fluency		

Google Forms allows you to enter your questions with options and then the replies will get tabulated in a spreadsheet as seen above. Thereby helping in easy analysis of the data

One way to do it is by manually entering all the data in an Excel sheet, but there are chances that you may goof up. So instead you can use Google Forms which allow you to analyse your data. Go to Google Documents/Drive > Create > Forms. Make a Form and fill in all your questions, answer options, etc. and save the survey form. Then, fill in the responses. So say there are 10 respondents, then you'll have to fill out that form 10 times. All those responses will get automatically filled into an excel sheet, which you can later download. Once you have all the data in a tabulated form, you can use the Charts function of Microsoft Excel to visualise the data in a better way and analyse it.

That dreaded sound...

Sometimes my PC hangs and the speaker makes a terrible sound. Even the mouse pointer doesn't move, so I have to restart my PC. Sometimes, during rebooting it shows "CMOS checktime failed". I can't watch my favourite movies or play games like Crysis 2.

My configuration is as follows:

- Processor – Intel core i3 3.06 GHz
- RAM – 4 GB DDR3
- GPU – ZOTAC 8400 GT
- HDD – Seagate 7200.12 500GB
- Motherboard – ECS H55M

I have another question. How can I use an ethernet cable to transfer data from one computer to another in Windows 7. I have tried many times to do this between my sister's laptop and my PC but failed!

Rudrasis Gorai

The answer to the second question can be found here: <http://dgit.in/Y0eKgi>

As for your first problem:

Without having access to your system, it might be hard to tell where the problem lies and what causes the crashes. However, try to ensure you check things in this order:

1. If the machine is a laptop, give it to an authorised service centre for repair
2. If it's a desktop PC,
 - a) Turn off the PC, open the cabinet, ensure you have enough light to see the internals clearly, and turn on the PC again
 - b) Ensure that the CPU fan is spinning properly
 - c) Ensure that the GPU fan is spinning properly
 - d) If both are spinning fine, turn off the PC, press down lightly on the RAM strips, and ensure they are seated firmly
3. Change the CMOS battery, you can get a new one from any watch dealer or computer dealer
4. Keep the PC open while using it, and if it crashes and hangs again, turn off the power, and then touch the CPU heatsink, GPU heatsink and RAM strips. Warning: Be careful they might be really hot
5. If you have more than one RAM strip, keep only one in the PC and then test again to see if it hangs. If not, replace the first one with the second, and so on to ensure that the RAM is not corrupted. Note: you



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Adobe Acrobat XI

Adobe announces Acrobat XI with tablet friendly touch and cloud services integrating more seamlessly with Microsoft Office

RailRadar

CRIS has announced a new web application RailRadar, which allows users to access location of a train on Map and track movements of trains on a real-time basis.

can also burn to a CD / DVD any of the Linux distros we give on our Digit DVD, boot from it and run the memtest option to ensure the RAM is functioning correctly.

- If none of this works, you may have a faulty motherboard, and will need an engineer to look at your problem

Unread disks and other issues

My system configuration is as follows:

- Processor – Pentium dual-core E5500 @ 2.80GHz
- RAM – 4.00 GB DDR3
- DVD SATA drive – HL-DT-ST DVDRAM GH24NS72 ATA
- SATA HDD –
- Seagate Barracuda LP ST2000DL003
- IDE HDD – Seagate PM - ST3160215A
- Graphics Card – Nvidia GeForce 210 1GB
- Motherboard – ASUS P5G4IC-M LX
- Operating System – Windows 7 Ultimate (with Win8 Release Preview)

I have a number of problems:

- The SATA 2.0TB HDD is connected with no OS installed. The IDE HDD has got Win7. The SATA hard disk, from the beginning, isn't working properly. It just suddenly sometimes disconnects on its own and there are rapid or slow beeps. Most of the time, it doesn't even show up in the BIOS, and gives out irritating beep sounds. Every time I perform a scan or troubleshoot on this drive, the process slows down (with slow beeps) and the drive hangs. If I'm copying something, for some time it goes well, then it hangs a bit, and then the speed goes down to bytes/Sec. Even after many automatic repairs, the problem continues. I have no idea what the issue is. Is it some hardware defect, because it only works after a dozen

times of unplugging and plugging of the SATA cable.

- The DVD drive doesn't read disks. It shows up in the BIOS as well as device manager, but not in the list of drives under disk management. There's also no directory under HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\SYSTEM\CurrentControlSet\Control\Class\{4D36E965-E325-11CE-BFC1-08002BE10318} that could be deleted as per instructions. I even tried uninstalling the drivers and restarting the PC, but this too doesn't help. I've also tried different SATA cables, but to no effect. The computer sometimes hangs on inserting a disk, or sometimes shows no behavior whatsoever.
- The computer, on startup, just after the BIOS screen displays 'Not enough space in runtime area!! SMBIOS data will not be available.' message. What kind of problem is this and how do I get rid of it?
- I played Batman Arkham City by mounting an image in the virtual drive. It worked perfectly until I installed Windows 8 RP. Now it doesn't accept it and displays 'please insert original disk instead of backup 1000'. I have my save files and don't wish to start the game all over again. What should I do to use that backup image again?

Vinod Arora

A Wow, you have quite a lot of issues. Let us look at them individually.

- The HDD giving out beeping sounds is a sure sign that it is going bad. You need to backup all the data that you have on that drive when it is functioning. An HDD making beeping sounds means that some internal components have gone bad. Transfer your data to an external drive ASAP.
- Looks like your drive is getting the power as it is being recognised in the

BIOS and the device manager. First thing we would advise is downloading the latest drivers. But since it cannot read discs, so maybe there is some optical issue. We mean there may probably be some dust accumulation that is an obstruction to the lens from which the laser beam is pointed. Your drive bay may have got some physical shock which is preventing the laser from pointing properly on the optical media.

- This seems to be a common issue with ASUS boards. Try removing the CMOS battery for around 5 mins and resetting the BIOS as well. You might want update the BIOS of the board. Just download the latest BIOS from the website on a clean USB drive and try flashing the older BIOS.
- Sorry we do not think that issue will arise with a legit copy of the game. We do not encourage piracy.

From the Thinkdigit Forums

DVD tray's wierd behaviour

First of all my DVD reader tray doesn't open. To open it I have to bang on it a couple of times. Finally when i place a DVD on it and close the tray, it tends to keep ejecting. I have to apply pressure to push it in till i am sure that the DVD is being read. How can I solve this problem

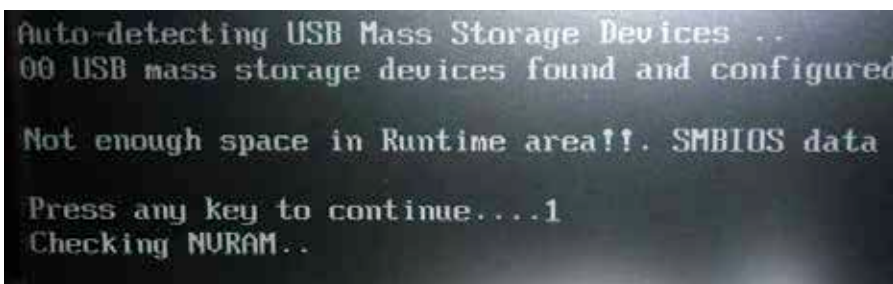
Thanks in advance.

Utkarsh Malik

A The drive tray mechanism is at fault. When the tray seems to have been withdrawn and then it spits out the DVD again, internally what happens is that the tray has not reached /signaled the logic board that it's at its "closed/withdrawn" position and so the tray mechanism simply assumes that the CD door is stuck. This is just like when you mount a DVD incorrectly, how the tray jams. It can be caused due to many problems such as a dying door-eject motor, dirt clogging on the saw-edged plastic rails of the tray, worn out/broken saw teeth (it happens!) or simply a misaligned tray.

Btw do you have a habit of pushing the door shut rather than pressing the eject button? Just curious.

Aloodum



SPEEDGRADE

Adobe has gone ahead and bundled an excellent color grading application with its suite of video post-production software. We look at some interesting tips and tricks to help you work better.



Footage with different resolutions

When color grading footage, you are not really focused on the resolution of the clips under consideration. But they can be distracting and not necessarily nice to look at.

Rectify this by going to Timeline > View > Screen Layout. You can tweak the clip resolution properties here, and the best thing is that changes are effective for everything in the timeline. You can just increase the resolution of everything on the timeline to the maximum resolution i.e., the highest resolution shot is becoming the standard for everything else. You will not see pristine quality videos, but you won't have to zoom in and zoom out for each shot. Also this can go across the board for resolution so you can mix SD, HD, whatever you want to throw at it. This isn't exactly desired but sometimes it may be the beneficial.



HSB Preview

You may not have access to raw footage every



Use HSB preview to find artifacts from downgrading



SpeedGrade	71
Google Drive.....	71
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Tips & Tricks has its own page numbers, and does not follow the rest of the magazine's page numbers. This is done to ensure that you can cut out and save T&T in a separate folder for later reference.

time, you may get footage that has been downsampled. It may not necessarily be bad but you may want to qualify it even before you go into grading, i.e. whether it is a good transcoding of the material.

A trick normally used by compositing professionals is to check the HSB composite of the clip at hand. Once again go to the Timeline > View > Channel View > HSB Composite. You'll be able to identify the problem in Bit Depth of any compression

artifacts that may be present due to the transcoding.



Scene Change Detection

SpeedGrade CS6 makes it easy, compositing a clip that has edits in it but no EDL for it. SpeedGrade has just the right tool for it called Scene Change Detect. You can access it under Timeline > Tools > Scene Change Detect. If you open it, it will actually start doing the analysis. Once it's done analyzing you may want to go over the edits again, but typically it gets most of the edits right. Once the analysis is complete you can either split into multiple sub-clips or just add keyframes to the timeline which gives you slightly more flexibility.

In the Scene Change Detect window, whenever you see a blue bar, it means that the anal-

ysis picked up a lot of difference to this frame compared to the one before and the one after. Now it actually gets better - you can save the analysis that you performed as an EDL file, do so by clicking on the "Save EDL" button in the Scene Change Detect window. You can then import the EDL file into any NLE or for that matter any application that supports that kind of information.

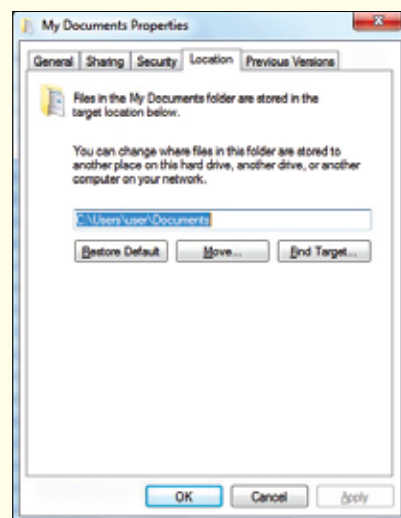
GOOGLE DRIVE

Google Drive is a great service, no doubt, but simply installing the application, and synchronizing your files is just the first step. These tips will help you take maximum advantage of Google Drive, on the desktop as well as the internet - whether it is synchronizing files between different computers or using facilities provided exclusively on the online service.



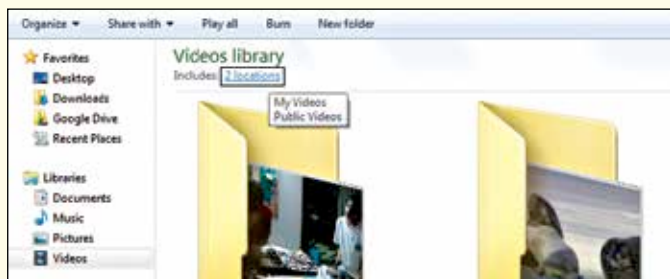
Move User Folders

You can move your user data folders (Documents, Pictures, Music, Videos and Downloads) by right-clicking the folder and changing the destination path

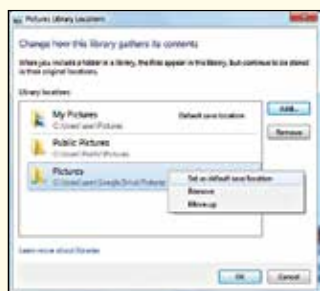


Change the location of the user folder to the Google Drive folder

under the 'Location' tab in the Properties menu. (Windows 7 users need to go to the Explorer



Add Google Drive folders to Library locations



Save the Google Drive folder as the default location for easy accessibility

panel to the left, Expand the collapsible Library folder, and right-click the "My Documents" or similar folder to get the Properties menu.)

Change the location of one of these folders to your Google drive folder to synchronize it between computers. Do this on each computer you use and you'll have the same files in your Documents, Downloads, and all other folders on all your computers. NOTE: If the amount of data you have exceeds the storage capacity of Google Drive (that is, if the data is more than 5 GB in size), then the above-mentioned function will fail to completely transfer all files. Once the storage limit of Google Drive is reached, you will be unable to add any more folders/files to it, and in this case, to your user data folders as well.

Customize Windows Libraries

To utilize this function, you'll need to have the offline version of Google Drive downloaded and installed (the option for downloading is available on

the home page of your online Google Drive at the bottom of the sidebar). Once you do that, you will get a Google Drive folder in your list of user data folders, which is also accessible via the sidebar of Windows Explorer (it is in your Favorites menu).

Once you have the Google Drive folder, you don't necessarily have to move files and folders to share them - use the Windows libraries folders instead. In any library folder, click the Location link near the top of the window.

Here, click Add..., browse to the Google Drive folder you wish to add to the library, and select OK. You can add as many folders as you want from the Google Drive folder to your library and even set it as your default save location. On doing so, later when you open the library in Windows Explorer, you'll see files from all included folders, and when you move or save a file to it, Windows will place it in the default save folder.

Empty the Trash

Files in the Trash (as well as previous versions of files) take up storage space. After deleting files from the drive, you'll have to empty the online drive Trash to completely reclaim your storage space.

The Trash folder can only be emptied from the online version of Google Drive. Select the More link in the sidebar, to reveal the option for the Trash folder. Note: Once you delete files from the Trash folder,



Don't forget to empty Google Drive's online Trash folder to maximize available space

they are permanently removed. There is no way to retrieve those files after that, so be very careful before removing files from the Trash folder.

Restore previous file versions

Google Drive saves previous versions of files you've recently changed for up to 30 days, or 100 revisions - whichever comes earlier. These can't be accessed from the desktop folder though. You'll need to visit the website (drive.google.com), right-click a file and select "Manage revisions..." Alternatively, you can

select a file, click on the More link in the sidebar, and then select "Manage revisions..." from the dropdown menu.

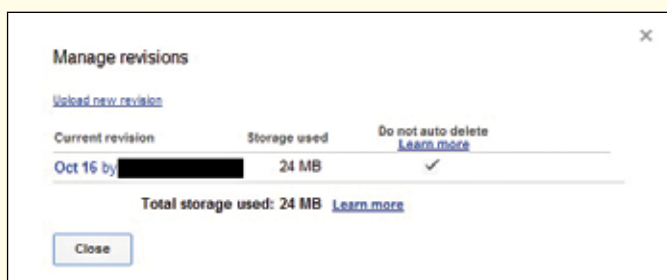
Previous revisions take up space in your online drive, similar to Trash. You can remove previous revisions from this menu if they're taking up too much space.

Install Apps

Google Drive isn't just another sharing service that lets you synchronize data across folders - it can also function as a web-based hard drive for web apps. The Chrome Web Store contains a category specifically for Google Drive apps. They can be selected under Collections -> Google Drive on the sidebar menu.

You can launch files in these apps directly from Google Drive. Conversely, the app can also save files directly into your drive. This service provides great relief in the form of a location where you can store your files, instead of scattering them across multiple web apps.

For example, Aviary for Google Drive is a very easy-to-use and handy photo editor. The



Manage (and delete) previous versions of files saved in Google Drive



Google Drive-specific apps available in the Chrome Web Store



Chrome-based photo editor for Google Drive

app lets you pick any image file you want from Google Drive, edit it directly in your Chrome browser, and then save the edited version of the file back to your drive instantaneously. While it's no Photoshop, Aviairy makes photo-editing on-the-fly a lot easier and more fun.

JDownloader

JDownloader is a popular download management tool with the ability to manage downloads from filesharing sites and features such as fast download speeds, control over your downloads and set bandwidth limitations with auto-extract archives. Besides one click hosters, JDownloader allows you to download content from video portal sites like YouTube and convert them into mobile supported formats. We have collected some tips and tricks in order for you to get the best out of this neat little utility.

Speed up your downloads

In order to get better download speeds from JDownloader make sure you have proper optimised settings for your connection. Go to Settings>Downloads and Connection and select "Create sub folder with package name if possible". Determine when the finished downloads are removed by selecting "When package is ready". Check "Start downloads on Startup" as well

as "Do not start new links if reconnect requested" and keep the speed of paused downloads to a very low value, preferably 0 kbps.

Setting Number of connections

Depending on your Host and Internet download speed the

total number of connections should be limited. For average internet users with download speed up to 1.5Mbps limit the number of connections to 2. If Max.Con. is 1, then Max.Dls can be 2. Max.Con.=2 with Max.Dls.=1 is not recommended.

Use Extensions, Plugins and Add-ons

To download and install add-ons Open Addon tab. Now Switch to "Add-on Manager">"Plugins & Addons-Extension". Select the add-ons you want to install and click save. After pressing Save, JDownloader will notify you to download the selected add-ons. Press Start Download. After the download is complete your add-on will be activated. You can disable

the add-ons in Add-on manager. Below are the plugins which will make JDownloader more useful:

FlashGot for Firefox

The FlashGot add-on for Firefox lets you download all links, videos and audio clips within that particular page with a single click integrating all the files to JDownloader. However, the current version of FlashGot is not yet compatible with Firefox 16.

JD Shutdown

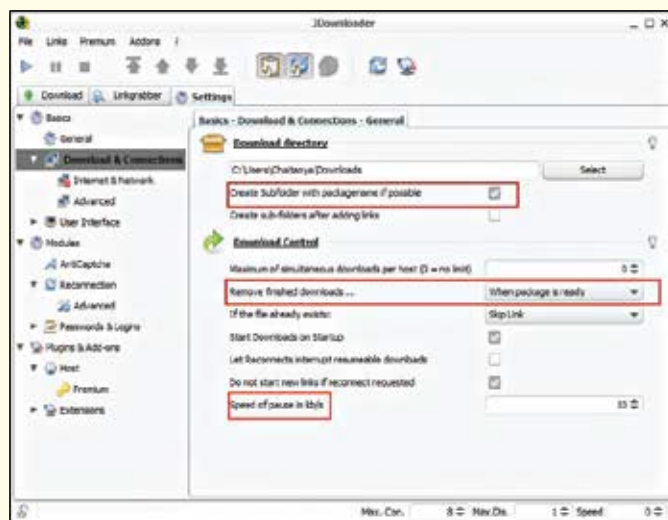
This plugin, when enabled, automatically shutdowns your system when all the files are downloaded. You can even close JDownloader without shutting down your system. The JD Shutdown plugin can also be configured to put your system on standby or hibernate mode. Once the plugin is enabled go to Settings>Extensions>JD Shutdown and select the mode you wish to enable. Standby and Hibernate mode only works on Linux and Windows.

Schedule

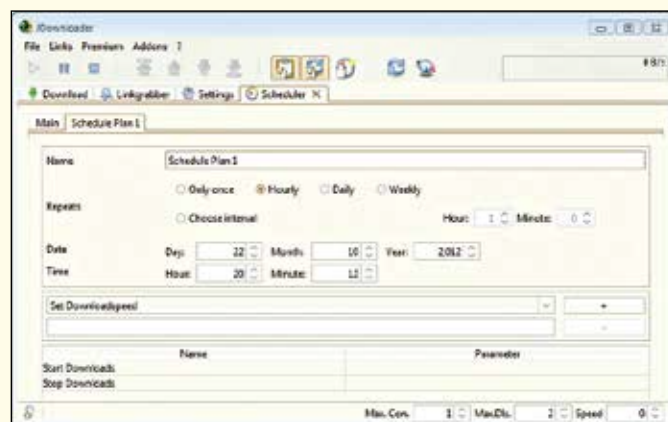
Schedule helps you keep track of your downloads. You can set times where JDownloader can Start/Stop download, adjust download speed, and enable/disable reconnect. To edit the settings enable Shedule add-on from Settings>Extensions. Go to Addons tab and select Schedule. Set the actions and parameters and save your plan.

JDownloader Integration

JDownloader Integration is an extension for Google Chrome which allows you to download content from the website directly without copying the link into link grabber. It enables you to download videos, audio files and webpages. You can download this plugin from the Google Chrome store.



Speed up your downloads by tweaking these settings



Schedule tasks for JDownloader

Restore download history to another PC

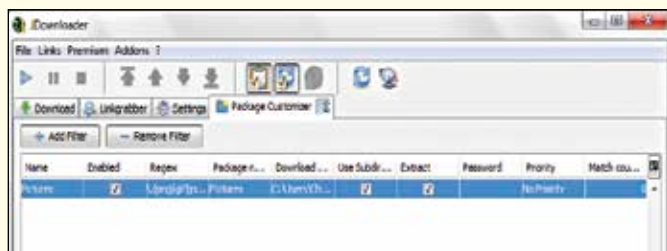
In order to do this you must have a backup of files on the previous computer. To do so go to File->save->backup. To save linklists go to File > Save > Save linklist. Now unzip the backup into config folder. Copy config folder to the new PC where JDownloader is installed. Now add the saved linklists to linkgrabber.

Manage archives through JDownloader

The integrated unzipper for RAR files automatically opens downloaded archives. Go to Settings>Extensions>JD Unrar>Advanced Settings. Activate the Sub-path box to create a sub folder for every unpacked archive. "Ask for unknown passwords" allows you to enter passwords that are not saved in your list. Check Deep Extraction if you want to decompress archives within an archive.

Increase the Download Timeout

If your network connection is slow it's best to increase download timeout. To increase the download timeout go to Settings > Basic > Download and connection > Internet and network. Now change read timeout value as well as connection timeout value under the



As you can see, different formats have different folders

same tab depending on your network connection.

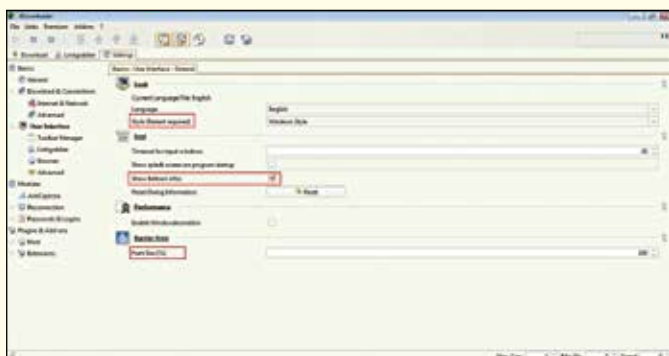
Defaults values are 100 000miliseconds == 100 seconds

Enable Notifications

You can know when your files are downloaded by enabling the notification feature in JDownloader. To do so enable "Show Balloon Infos" under Settings > Basics > User Interface > Feel.

Save different formats to different folders

You can automatically put mp3 files into a specific music folder and jpeg files to a picture folder, and so on. For this to work you need to enable the package customizer add-on. Once it's enabled you can set custom filters which can be applied to files with the use of Regex Filter which applies to a single file with a jpeg extension > .*?.\jpeg, filter which applies to a single file with a png extension -> .*?.\png. You can also use multiple regex which applies to multiple files with a single regular expression filter -> \(.(png|gif|jpeg)\$



User interace is pretty basic

Use Shortcuts to get around faster

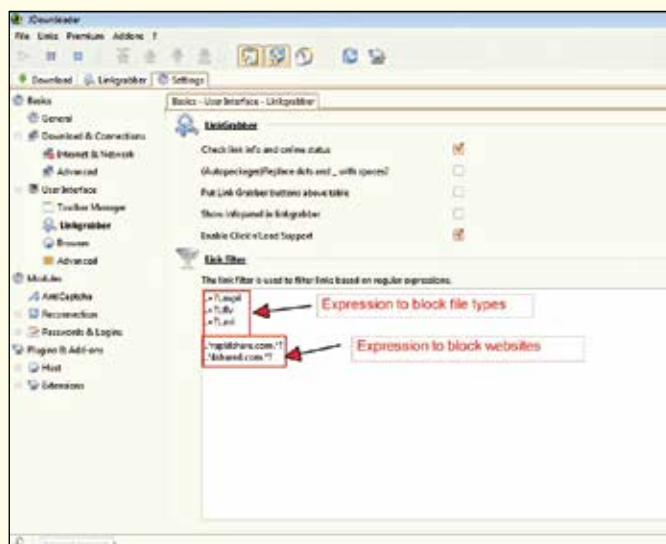
We have collected few uncommon shortcuts to make your life easier:

- Host Configuration = CTRL+Alt+H
- Load Container = CTRL+O
- Drag&Drop target = CTRL+6
- Changelog = CTRL+SHIFT+C

Interface. Under "Feel" tab, Check "Show balloon infos". JDownloader provides over 40 different appearance styles for Mac, Linux and Windows. You can change your appearance in the same User Interface section under "Look" tab. For example you can select "Windows Style" if you are using Windows OS. To change your font size go to "Barrier-Free" section and change the font size as required.

Avoid Unwanted Host Websites and File types

You can block file sharing websites, video portal websites or any file type to avoid



Avoid and stamp out unwanted host websites

- Do a Manual Reconnection = CTRL+R
- Create Container = CTRL+S
- Execute update = CTRL+7
- Add-on Configuration = CTRL+Alt+O
- Enable or disable monitoring the Clipboard for new links = CTRL+8

accidental downloads. Settings > Basics > User Interface > Linkgrabber > Link Filter. Click on the text box and add files or websites you want to block. To block files of particular extensions add .+?. before the file name. For example, write ".+?.avi" to block downloads of files with avi extension. You can also block websites by adding ".*YOURWEBSITE.COM.*?". For example, write ".*rapidshare.com.*?" in the text box to avoid downloads from rapidshare. **d**

Enable Notifications, Change Font Size and Appearance

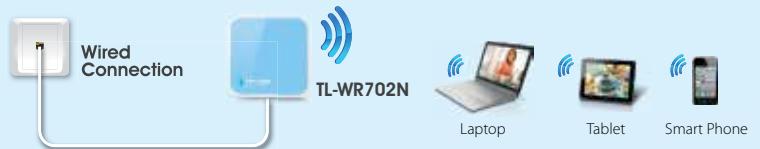
To get notifications of your finished downloads go to Settings > Basics > User



1 Product
4 Uses
Compact and Versatile

150Mbps Wireless N Nano Router
TL-WR702N

1 Turn a Wired Connection into a Wireless One
(AP Mode, Plug-N-Play)



2 Works as a Wireless Router
(Router Mode)

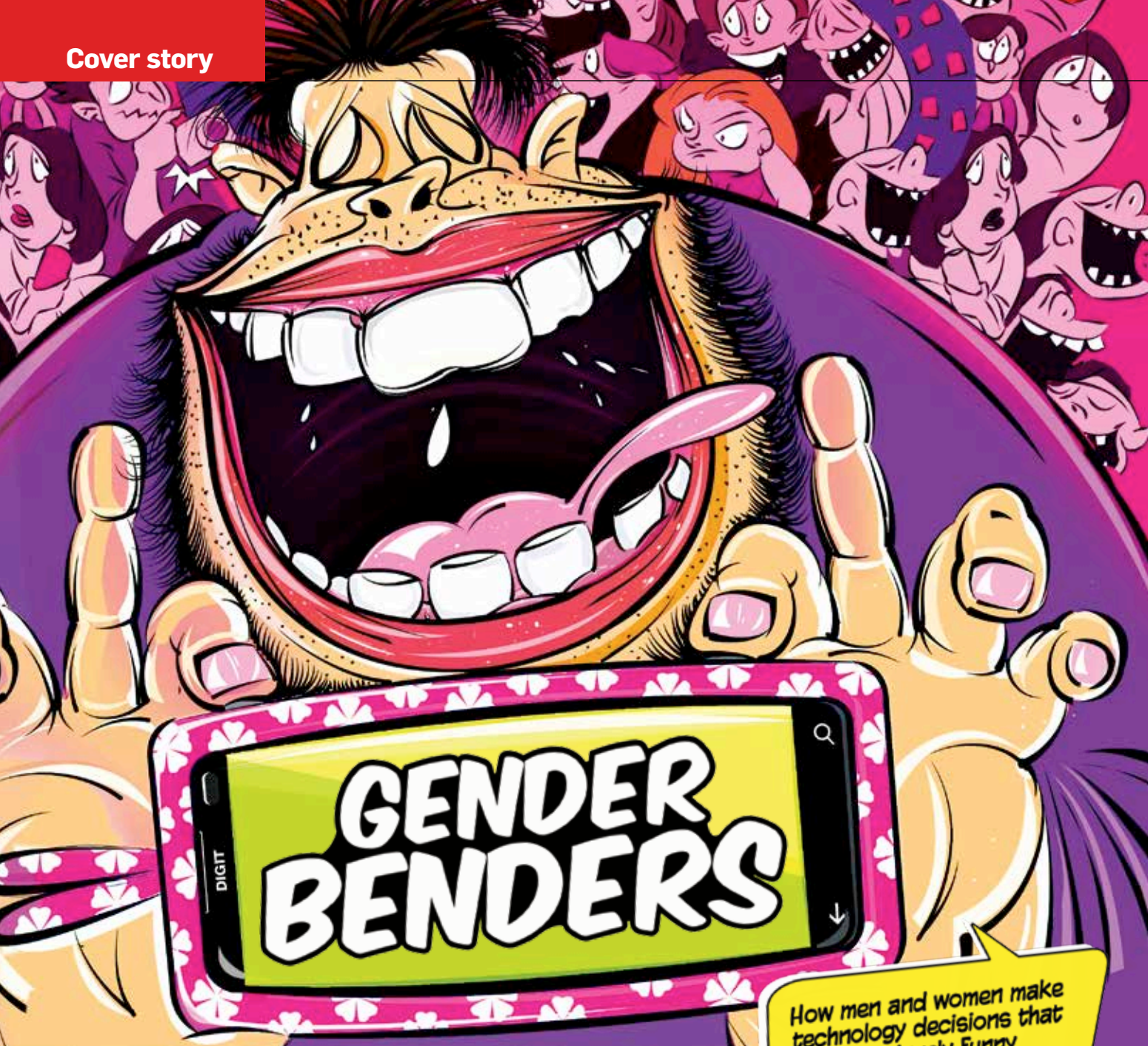


3 Works as a Wireless Adapter to Equip Devices with Wi-Fi
(Client Mode)



4 Extend Your Existing Wireless Coverage
(Repeater/ Bridge Mode)





Jayesh Shinde
jayesh.shinde@thinkdigit.com

W e may be humans at large, but when it comes to buying and using technology, the fact that “men are from mars, and women from venus” couldn’t be more true. After all, we have a few thousand years (possibly more) of Darwin’s theory to take into account. And when it comes to interacting with technology, the opposing genders can have their own quirks and idiosyncrasies. It was only a matter of time before some funny observations were compiled (by us), not to start a gender joust but to celebrate and

appreciate that which makes us different. So before we all go senile and eventually die, it’s time to ridicule her and him.

Form vs function

This is a classic point of divergence between men and women. Generally, and there are exceptions to every rule, men seem to make buying decisions based on how a device ultimately functions. Its colour, shape, design and aesthetics may not matter all that much when it comes to its function. “Will these tiny speakers pump out sound according to my expectations and require-

ment? Will this tablet function the way I want?” These are the questions that hound men, and they can’t contemplate buying a product that doesn’t keep its function-related promises. It’s their worst nightmare.

We don’t want to say that these things don’t make sense to a woman, because that shoves us down a hole with no escape. So instead we’ll say that function isn’t always the top priority in a woman’s mind, when she’s out shopping for gadgets. How many times have we been flipped out and amazed at questions like “But is this laptop available in pink?” or “Is there a cuter looking

version of this phone?" from picky women who have higher regard for a device's looks and appeal than its intended function? Why industrial designers and fashion brands don't collaborate more often is beyond comprehension, for it will surely help create better looking products than ever before, and technology will truly shine – literally and figuratively. Enough is enough: we need more women in technology, down with this guy's club perception of tech!

Women accessorise, men accessorise differently

Another aspect of technology where women tread a path less trodden by men is their ability to accessorize everything. From fancy iPhone cases beaded with glittery bits to stardust-splashed tablet handbags, from cute little matching earphones to colourful stickers that make sense to them alone, women have a penchant for, and the tireless ability to, accessorise and accentuate any tech gadget they can lay their hands on. Not just gadgets, but you see it in online games, too. If you have a Facebook account, and if you see a female inviting you to play Farmville, accept the invitation to just go and visit her farm. You'd be hard-pressed not to find an estate with different crops growing in various patterns, and every animal and farm object out on display. Farming alone isn't enough, farming with bling is equally important.

This drive and urge may escape a man's limited purview completely – who will work with any gadget, even one as ugly as a decomposing rat's tail, as long as it serves some purpose important to him. But thanks to women for single-handedly creating and sustaining the gadget accessories market. If only more tech manufacturers join hands with fashion designers to up the glitter and razzmatazz ante in tech gadgets, the world of tech will be a bed of roses and a jolly, colourful playground. Gucci cover for that new iPhone, anyone? No? How old-fashioned and manly of you! You need a makeover!

Spec matters

There's a reason why sales attendants in any LFR's digital section are predominantly men or why women browse these sections with "tech savvy" male tag-alongs who are only too eager to share their knowledge of tech and make the world a better place. Things like a gadget's specifications, its performance, and therefore its perceived

value are almost intuitive to men – they can grasp these concepts easily. Women, on the other hand, have trouble wrapping their heads around them (at least, for now). Sweeping generalisations are uncalled for, we agree, but in this context they're largely true based on our observations. While men may have a thousand boring questions on a device's hardware, upgradability, performance, applicability and price, women are



largely unconcerned by these frivolous details. They waste no time in looking past this tech jargon to select a device that looks good first, and then other features (integral to lesser mortals from the opposite sex) are up for consideration.

Bargaining power

Women are good with finances. One thing you can't take away from women is their ability to hunt for a bargain while out on a shopping spree. When both the seller and the buyer are from the fairer sex, negotiations can be fun to observe. Their verbal joust and ability to haggle while standing their respective ground is almost an education for young, hapless men passing by. So while a man knows that he obviously can't expect any freebies while purchasing the latest phone from a lucrative brand, women are oblivious to these sensibilities to some extent. They don't discriminate between items – whether it's shopping for curry leaves on the sidewalk or purchasing the latest tablet – the instinct to negotiate and get more out of every deal is natively ingrained in them. And since they succeed more often than not, if for nothing else, hats off to them for that.

Seduction

Men are seduced easily by tech gadgets, which leads them to make snap, impulsive decisions which may not be fully thought through. If a man goes in a tech store to browse for laptops, it's not strange to see him walk out with a laptop, a digital camera and a new TV. If he can't afford all of those, you can bet he's walked out with a fresh desire to save up for a new laptop, camera and TV.

Women, on the other hand, actually have emotional relationships with gadgets instead of sordid affairs like we men do. There's no lust for a new toy, or getting bored with one that's barely a year old. Instead there's an emotional farewell when a much-loved gadget dies. For this alone they're smarter and spend less on tech than men, who instead lust after every hot little thing with a big... er... touchscreen.



And no, you won't find them pulling dirty stunts like buying the latest gadget, saying "it's for you honey", knowing fully well that she isn't really ready to break up with her current device, and then happily offering to use it till she's ready, or so that it won't go to waste.

Addiction

Let's face it, men are clinically obsessed with anything tech to the point of insanity! Guys can game till the world's end, unaware of anything around them. They are also known to fiddle – with a PC, laptop, car, bike, etc. – for hours on end. This extreme level of immersion and dedication is something that only men can bring to the table. Sorry, gals. You lose the addiction battle, but take solace in the fact that you hold enough power to snap men out of it at will, with just the batting of your eyelids – provided he notices, that is. **[E]**

LOL MOMENTS IN TECH

Read on for classic epic fails, facepalms and other lowpoints in tech

Nimish Sawant

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There are times when great things happen for companies, and those are moments they will cherish forever. It defines the companies themselves, and the perception of greatness is etched into our memories forever. These are not those stories.

Nokia's FakeView facepalm

Nokia Lumia 920 which is the company's flagship Windows Phone, was supposed to be the talk of the town. The specs were great: Windows Phone 8 OS compatibility, Snapdragon S4 SoC, 8.7MP PureView camera



Reflection showing high end camera setup

and so on. But instead, all we remember is the 'fake' promotional video. For a company that's struggling with its refreshed line-up of phones, this was the last thing they needed. The video shows a couple, presumably in love, riding on bicycles on an empty road. The guy is 'allegedly' shooting the girl with his Lumia 920 phone. It even has the split-screen view showing the Optical Image

Stabilization feature in 'On' and 'Off' modes. Some video editor somewhere forgot that even clear glass reflects in bright daylight, and when the scene passes a trailer, in the window you see a reflection of a jeep with a professional camera shooting the girl, and not the Lumia 920! Bam! Websites were quick to pounce on that blink-and-you-miss-it frame which eventually led to Nokia issuing an apology and stating on record that the promotional video wasn't shot on the Lumia 920. Last we heard, Nokia is looking for a video editing guy.

RIM planning a flash mob outside an Apple store

Let's wind the clock back to the first week of May, when we woke up to news of flash-mob besieging an Apple store in Sydney with participants holding a 'Wake Up' placard. "Another Samsung stunt", was what majority of us thought. Till we learnt that it was the Waterloo based BlackBerry maker Research In Motion, which had sponsored the whole event! Clearly the world was laughing at RIM to have even attempted a Samsung! The whole idea



Flash mob outside Apple store

behind the campaign was to prod corporate users to use a BlackBerry handset instead of the more flashy touchscreen phones. They even created a website for this campaign which has a rolling speech. One line says "Business is no longer just a suit-wearing, cubicle-sitting, card-carrying kind of pursuit," Gee! BlackBerry, you don't say!

Where the bridges sway and roads are wonky

So Apple decided that it was about time they got rid of their competitor's Maps app. Google Maps was chucked out of the latest iOS iteration. Now while showcasing iOS Maps app at WWDC in June this year, it was touted as the most "Beautiful" (word repeated 7 times in the presentation) mapping solution built from the ground-up, with in-house cartographers! We don't know which school they went to, because when someone decided to check out Mumbai, all we had were four major roads, and no points of interest. A lot of Apple fanboys quickly came to its rescue on Twitter, stating stuff like, "Oh c'mon, Apple Maps has just launched. It took Google Maps six years to get where it is now." Well we say Apple Maps work just fine for a few conditions: one, if you suddenly found yourself in the 70s or two, the Twilight Zone.

But seriously, why chuck out a good service when yours is barely in beta? At the end of the day a maps app should do only one thing right - show the correct satellite images. But what users got instead were wavy bridges, cloud cover on certain North European cities, hardly any detail in some Indian cities and so on. Between Apple maps and the local paan wala, we will still prefer the latter for navigation!

Apple CEO Tim Cook issued an apology and even suggested: "While we're



Apple maps to navigate in the Twilight Zone

improving Maps, you can try alternatives by downloading map apps from the App Store like Bing, MapQuest and Waze, or use Google or Nokia maps by going to their web sites.” Surely Google employees are in splits right now. This video explains it best we believe: <http://goo.gl/opzR2>

Facebook IPO #Fail

Speaking about last laughs, Team Digit had one, when news of Facebook’s stock plunging first came out within 5 days of

launch. We had predicted that it would indeed happen in our March 2012 issue and it did. Just before the IPO, Facebook had acquired Instagram for a mind-boggling \$1 billion – which many felt was a ridiculous sum for an app maker. There was a site even which asked twitter users to predict Facebook’s IPO day pricing. About 2261 Twitter users had predicted a price of \$54 which was \$16 over the first day closing price. All proving that ‘social’ intelligence

is not really ‘market’ intelligence. And when you are playing with the big guys at Wall Street, you better have strong financials. Thankfully this IPO debacle has brought in the much needed correction as far as social apps markets go.


Ballmer’s quotable quotes

These quote in themselves are laugh out loud funny:

Back in 2007 after the iPhone launch Steve Ballmer in his inimitable style said the following while laughing uproariously, “Five hundred dollars, fully subsidized with a plan, I say that is the most expensive phone in the world. And it doesn’t appeal to business customers because it doesn’t have a keyboard. Which makes it not a very good email machine.”

At the All Things D conference in 2009, “Vista is faster than XP!”

His views on Google, “Google’s not a real company. It’s a house of cards”

And finally the classic, “Developers, Developers, Developers, Developers”, and so on to infinity. 



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APOCALYPSE NOW?

Are we bidding adieu to civilization as we know it? How we missed our chance to stop the P-virus, and how it's too late now

November 3, 2012 I am anonymous

I've started this retro-style blog, and will keep it "anonymous" because I'm terrified of catching the P-virus. I found the term "anonymous" in an old online poster. It means to not reveal your identity – and yes, I'm aware of how crazy that sounds today. You'll find out why as this blog progresses – if anyone still reads blogs that is. About the P-virus, which is what this blog is really about, did you know that there was a time when only the random stray person would catch the bug. It wasn't terrible or anything; in fact people would go "Wow! They're so lucky!" Most people self-destructed back then after catching the virus, and yet more and more people wanted it, and went out of their way to get infected.

Identifying and managing the disease was easier in the early days. Fewer people had it, they had it for a lot longer, and although the crowds of crazy people trying to get close to them to try and catch the fever were larger, they were easier to manage because it was all in the "real world". Then the internet came along, and the epidemic was uncontrollable. Almost every "first world" citizen, and a growing minority of "third-world" people (whatever happened to the second world, eh?) now had a digital intravenous line direct to the brain, and the virus started spreading like wildfire. That's not all though. There used to be a time when this was a purely human disease. Then cats and dogs started catching the fever as well. More cats than dogs, as history shows, but there was always a stray parakeet, dolphin, tiger, etc., and even an octopus or two that caught it.

November 4, 2012 Indiscriminate attacks

Look, I'm only human. And it may be mean, but honestly, I look at some people who are just so much larger than life and think, "Yeah, they really deserve to get the fever", but for the most part, I sit here thinking "No! Not her/him, anyone but them!" Now don't Unlike me because of that, a person's got to eat you know. Of course viruses are like that. Just as that old HIV disease didn't care about race, bank balance, gender or sexual orientation, this new super bug was indiscriminating as well. It didn't need to be marketed or encouraged, it just spread, and every single one of us ended up either spending all of our time trying to catch it, or if we caught it, making sure we weren't cured. Yes, that actually happens. I should know, I'm a recovering patient, but I'm tempted to stop trying to get re-infected.

November 7, 2012 Wasn't always like this

I've been doing some digging over the past few days – trying to figure out where it began. I've spent many hours online at FB+ and VTube. Did you know FB+ wasn't always owned by Google? And VTube was previously called YouTube, and that wasn't owned by Google earlier either?

When diseases hit us in the past, entire industries were built around trying to cure them. Condom manufacturers capitalised on the HIV epidemic when it raged. Pharmaceutical companies then made billions when the cure was discovered. The P-virus was the opposite. People made billions of Likes (used to

be called "dollars" then; made of paper, they were actually carried around to buy stuff!) by making services such as Facebook (which Google later bought and changed to FB+). Of course back then, watching video on TV and net access were actually done on separate devices, believe it or not. And there was actually an entire industry that made money off getting you to watch its stars on TV, and you couldn't fast forward the video! Those must have been terrible days!

Tip: The forgotten web is chockful of these decrepit sites that say as much. If you have a library subscription, just search for videos that show this "money" on VTube. Use the "Paper money + oldies" keywords, and you'll find a few.

November 9, 2012 Beginning stages

I found a really interesting story in the library today. There was this chap called Bongiovi, who was a famous singer way back when, and chicks loved him and men wanted to be him – or was it the other way around? From the pictures I saw of him, who knows...

Here's the story of how he caught the virus. Bongiovi went out of his way – giving away CDs of his music to all the RJs (radio jockeys) he could find, bribing his way to them with free pizza. Rumour has it that RJs were known carriers back in the day, and every now and then someone would catch the bug from one of them – people caught a lot of things from one another in those days, but it's just the P-virus I'm interested in.

Bongiovi, who later formed a band called Bon Jovi, caught the bug from an RJ

who played his song on the radio – apparently some device that people just listened to, no video or anything! So Bongiovi used his talent, his looks, his coolness and spent money on free pizza in the hope of catching the bug. There must have been thousands just like him who tried and failed. The P-virus was rare those days.

About 20 years after that, an interesting event took place. I'm not saying it was the defining moment of when the P-virus finally caught root in humanity, but it was certainly an early warning sign that I think people missed. There was a girl called Rebecca Black. She begged her parents for 2,000 of those old dollars, got someone to write her a song, made a video, uploaded it to VTube, and promptly caught another strain of the same bug. Not as many people wanted to be her, but everyone got to know her for sure. That video got about 50 million views at the time, and even Time (which was a



Rebecca Black - Terrible and unintentionally funny videos make you famous

very big and popular paper news site from back then, called a magazine) mentioned her as one of the worst videos in history! To me that's a defining moment, because it's the oldest record I can find on the

forgotten web of someone being absolutely terrible and still being infected. Didn't they know what was coming? Couldn't they see how low humanity had stooped? Whoops, I'm running low on Likes, and I

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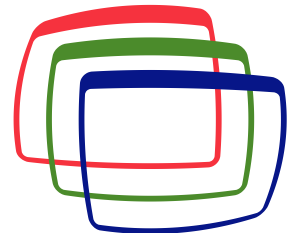
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have no food to eat. Time to get back to the real world for a bit, or else I'll starve.

December 8, 2012

Hunger games

Yes I've ignored this blog, and now whatever few Likes I had for it have been deducted by the Unlikes you impatient readers have logged. It's not easy you know, juggling two personas. One part of me would love to stay here earning Likes from the few of you who care to realise that something's wrong with the world, but the other half of me is my stomach, and other parts I don't care to mention.

I'm not going to tell you who I am, or give you any clues. I don't need the ILAS* knocking on my door to interrogate and get me to account for the Likes and Unlikes on this blog. Let's just say I spent almost a month VTubing everything I could to try and earn some Likes that I could bank. It's just so hard these days. How many cats can you scare or douse with water anyway? My entire family has been humiliated countless times, and they just aren't getting me the right number of views or Likes. VTube's new ad system isn't helping either, and this new brain mapping algorithm of theirs seems to have robbed me of half my traffic. Damn you Google mathematicians, can't you leave well enough alone?

If that's not bad enough, the new and inflated FB+ charges are only making it harder. The third's rule of 2 years ago was bad enough, now they're taking *half* of my Likes? I wouldn't mind if they also took half the Unlikes away as well, but since I have to deal with that on my own, it's just non-stop posting. How do people survive these days? I'm exhausted!

If anyone has some secret stock market tips to share, I'd be eternally grateful. I just don't get the whole strategic Like-ing the right person at the right time deal... how does paying someone else translate back into traffic that Likes you? My neighbour says it's because I actually Like who I think is funny, instead of Like-ing a person whose content a lot of other people will find Like-able.

Heck if I knew how that worked, wouldn't I be the one making popular videos and posts that get the millions of Likes? Please Like this back into the positive, I really want to

continue the research for you guys. I can't afford the Google bill to keep this running otherwise.

December 12, 2012

Dead ends

A lot can happen in 4 days! My entire family used to be employed in the services. Wages were always tight, especially for those who weren't Like savvy, but it was "good honest work" my parents said. The Chinese robotics rage that started 5 years ago has really affected everyone now.

A day after my last post, they all got laid off. Robots are cheaper, don't need breaks, don't eat, don't have families and Like inflation doesn't affect them.

I'm now the only earning member of my family, and I've been too busy making videos and shooting pictures trying to earn Likes.

It's getting even more laborious though, with 3 billion people already doing the same. What's worse, my father now wants me to teach him as well - anyone want to see a private show of my father making a fool of himself trying to earn Likes? Just 100 Likes for an hour, and you get to direct him - guaranteed to keep you in splits.

December 14, 2012

Me no Like

I haven't got a Like for 2 whole days now, and my balance is running low. Doesn't anyone have a craving for humour anymore? All those private suicide viewings seem to be hogging the limelight. At 20,000 Likes per viewer, there's not much left for the rest of us. One of my neighbours who was also laid off with my dad did one earlier today. I haven't got details, but apparently it was gory and he even took requests right until the very end. They're shifting soon, and if rumours are to be believed, they earned nearly 6 million Likes. That would last the average family for like 3-5 years! No wonder my dad's been considering it, my elder sister too. Thank god for Ambay!

Got a good deal on army surplus dried food. Even though it broke the bank, at least we can survive for a couple more months, and hope to ride this slump out.

December 16, 2012

Grandpa

I met my grandpa for his 80th birthday today, and he told me about the good old days. My dad says he's getting senile, but I think he makes sense sometimes. He says there used to be a time when you would work for that paper money I spoke about earlier. And not all work was done to the specifications of the masses. Companies had offices back then, and friends would actually meet one another outside. People even had their own shops where they actually sold products and services to other people for paper money. He said only a few individuals made purchases online at "Amazon", "Ebay", etc.

I did some digging in the forgotten web, and it's true, there were companies called Amazon and Ebay who merged to form what we know as Ambay a really long time ago. It proved to me he wasn't senile at least. He also claimed a rather small magazine from our country had covered the beginnings of the P-Virus in his youth. I went digging again, and I couldn't really find much about this paper magazine called *Digit*, but I did find an image someone had taken of themselves over 60 years ago that had the magazine lying on the table. Image recognition was able to find only 4 million images with "Digit Magazine" and "Virality". I stumbled on that last keyword by accident. I'm going through them now, and will report back if I find anything.

December 18, 2012

Phew!

That was a long search. Luckily I was able to find a few hundred pictures of people who had posted on an old Facebook (FB+ archives) profile. Apparently there was some prize for the most creative picture taken with the article open. I was able to piece the following together from those pictures:

Now if you have crazy talent like Walk Off The Earth then of course you deserve to be famous. But, what if you don't? Is there a secret formula that you can follow to get discovered and rake in the millions? Views that is, money isn't guaranteed. We decided to find out why some things go viral, and why most don't.

To understand this virality of content, we spoke to Arunabh Kumar, CEO of TheViralFever.com, the agency behind the popular

* ILAS = International Like Accounting Service (used to be known as the IRS)

Roadies parody show, Rowdies. While ViralFever.com has made several spoof videos of this series, the video called Rowdies 9 - Sab Q-tiyapa has registered over 700,000 hits and the concept came about because the creators couldn't understand why people went bonkers over the show.

His take on virality: "Like, with any contagious disease, two things are important. First, a virus needs to be something that you are not immune to, and second, for you to contract the disease you need to be exposed to it. The success of the virus then depends on the communities' threshold for that disease. That's why some people will 'get' it while some don't understand what the fuss is about. To be really contagious, the virus has to be new."

Viral content then, is like a disease, and if all conditions are perfect, the virus has potential to spread and become an 'epidemic'. Just imagine. The epidemic of the 'Asian Backstreet Boys' or 'Charlie the Unicorn'. Yes, you have our permission to crawl under your bed and shiver lest you catch the 'get stupid get famous' virus.

I'll try and decipher more later, but that's how much I've got so far. Interestingly, this magazine was able to identify it as a disease way back then. If only someone would have warned them about what the pointless clicking and the 'get stupid get famous' virus would do to humanity. What we call the P-virus today was already bothering some people two generations ago!

December 19, 2012 More interviews

I was able to piece together more of that article. Man they had terrible cameras in those days, with such horrible resolution pictures and videos. No wonder it's called the forgotten web!

Just in case you've been inspired by the stories of success we've highlighted, and now want to become an online sensation, we spoke to some viral content curators that are India's claim to online fame to understand whether there was a method to the madness and a secret formula, or was it just dumb luck. Utsav Agarwal, co-creator of Sb*t People in Mumbai Say and now founder of music sharing app #nowplyng feels

that there are two ways to go viral. "You can either create absolutely new content or jump on a trend. The effort should go into the content, as it must strike a chord with your audience".

Stress on the content like the man behind Gangnam Style did, and the rest will figure itself out. The crazy hopping guy has received close to 500 million views in 3 months and it's all because of a catchy tune and an absurd video. For those who haven't seen it - picture a guy doing a horse riding dance, intermittently singing below an ugly pelvic thrusting dude and a scantily dressed woman, and you have your answer.

Arunabh Kumar too believes that content is king. "The single most important foundation is for the creator to believe in his content. You must

it nowadays for the 6 PM reporters and daily journalists as they get a regular paycheck for telling us how many murders or thefts were committed while you fell asleep listening to Justin Bieber on loop.

Rupesh and Nikhil of popular blog aamchimbombai.org and Facebook page, Aamchi Mumbai, which has over 1.45 lakh Likes feel there's a method to the madness. "Yes, content is king, but a king requires a kingdom too, and the x factor is knowing and understanding why that particular content is being created. Like yourself, your content too needs a personality. Based on how you convey it - the choosing between a video v/s image, time of posting, quality and language of the content is all important..."

Based on these factors you'll either stumble upon genius creations such as The Annoying Thing aka Crazy Frog which is irritating yet funny, and share it with everyone; or you'll feel the content is a joke on itself and ignore it.

December 20, 2012 Even more...

I can't figure out whether this article was meant to serve as a warning in the early days or to encourage the spread of the P-virus. Most of the references are greek to me, and the data

corruption of the forgotten

web archives in '64 has not helped. It's hard to piece the message together and also understand it. I'll leave it open ended, and you can help me understand it.

About 60 hours of videos are uploaded every hour on YouTube. Yet, a minuscule percentage of them go viral. But, don't let your viral career be discouraged by this fact. For the many that have failed, or for all the senseless videos such as the Double Rainbow video, virality has given many a great career as well.

Let's take Canadian Indian comedian Russell Peters as an example. An unheard of standup comedian who regularly participated in comedy line-ups in Canada, Peters' performance on the comedy series Comedy Now! was uploaded by a fan on YouTube in its 45-minute entirety. Subsequently various other snippets of his performance were uploaded and according to Peters, when those snippets made their way to those specified cultural groups he became a viral sensation. Today, widely known for his comedy punchlines such as "Somebody gonna get a hurt



Double Rainbows - one of life's great mysteries

have immense creative audacity and constantly try something new."

Content is shared for various reasons on the internet. We share because an article or video contains useful information, because we want to appear smart or because you simply connect with the piece of content and want others to share the emotional experience.

So, if you are aiming for your next video, blog, image etc. to go viral - what kind of content should you aim for? Should it be positive or negative? Well, research undertaken by the Journal of Marketing Research says that people would rather share positive stories, as they would prefer to be known as someone who shares upbeat stories and make people feel good rather than someone who shares things that makes others feel upset or sad. It is the typical Santa Claus v/s The Grinch that Stole Christmas theory. That is, on the internet it's more likely that stories that bring joy rather than doom and gloom will be the sharing preference. We can leave the doom and gloom or 'news' as they call

real bad” in which he re-enacts an attempt at rebelliousness in his childhood with a traditional Indian father and “Be a man!” where he’s imitating a Chinese salesman trying to convince

when we find them, we share” To go viral, like anything you need to tell a story and what better way to do it than through humour and laughter. You’ll watch a man dancing even though the



Kolaveri Di - Absurd lyrics equals fame

him to pay more for an item than its worth, Russell Peters has been declared as the 7th highest paid comedian globally by Forbes.com.

Or, what about pop-singer Justin Bieber. He took second place in a local talent competition and posted his video online. Justin was then discovered by talent manager Scooter Braun who introduced him to singer Usber and the rest as we say is history. He became the first solo artist to have four singles enter the Top 40 before the release of a debut album and he has since become a teenage phenomenon complete with teenage girls fainting at his concerts and other such dramatics. Other such notable examples that have since got full-fledged careers are people such as Susan Boyle, Ray William Johnson, Nigabiga and Kassem G to name a few.

Like all things creative, there’s no exact science or rules for creating viral content. Many digital experts say that one simply can’t make viral content which is partly true because it only gets viral after having gone viral. What one can work on are the individual elements such as humour, concept, context and relevance. Maneesh Madambath, CEO of digital media agency, Smursh that curated the popular series MTV Unmasked which went head-to-head for awards with Kolaveri Di feels that “The crux of virality is answering why people will share this. And the biggest reason that I have found in objects that went viral is that people need to relate to the object and the object needs to say what they intend to say only better or in a cooler way. After all, we’re all looking for things to substantiate our opinions and attitudes and


song is Korean and you’ll also watch a fat half-naked guy singing in German because what they have in common is the ability to make you laugh. Humour is universal and so long as you continue to tell interesting and entertaining stories using laughter as your base you’re on the road to viral fame and fortune.

December 22, 2072 End of the world?

The world was supposed to end 60 years ago today. Apparently, in ancient times a race called the Mayans known for their high intellect had calendars which ended in the year 2012. This was interpreted as the world ending in that year. Whilst searching for snippets from the old magazine my grandpa mentioned, I came across a lot of forgotten web chatter around this topic. I think the ancient

Mayans were right. Only everyone expected crashing meteors and exploding stars or World War III (that’s 3 for those of you who didn’t have history or math as a subject in school). They all expected a sense of finality, like here today, gone tomorrow. They were just too stupid or immature to see the P-virus spreading. They were the first gen of popularity mongers, the first to be bitten by the popularity bug, and the first victims of the P-virus. The world began ending way before 2012; maybe the Mayans were lazy or maybe they knew that dates would be immaterial to people after that. Likes would be what we lived for, and where has it got us? A lot has changed in the past two days. The looting started yesterday, and we could only hide as armed assailants broke in and stole our army surplus supplies.

The screams from everywhere around make it harder to concentrate. This will be my last post here. With so many new private torture and suicide viewings, my family of four has decided to do the only sane thing possible in this insane world. We’ve caught the bug too finally, I suppose. The popularity virus spares no one.

We’ve decided to host a private anything-goes viewing for 30,000 Likes for an hour, with a roulette controller to viewers, so everyone stands a chance of being in the driver’s seat for 5 minutes. Log on to VTube.new/Apocalypse at 21:00 Google Standard Time, pay and enter. Includes all the latest weapons of choice, five wide-angle super4K robot cameras with the voice command interface. Guaranteed to be worth every Like even if you just view. All Likes will be donated to the public library which hosts the forgotten web, in the hope that eventually our past with help fix our future. If there is one, that is. I’m told the rioting and looting has speed even to the rich parts... 

Disclaimer: This is a fictional story and takes certain creative liberties needed to paint the dreary picture we desired. Digit does not condone the happenings of this fictional future. We believe hurting animals, other people or yourself is just plain idiotic, and you should seek counselling or call a local helpline if such feelings arise within you. You will not regret it, your loved ones will appreciate it as well, and besides, it’s cool to deal with life. Now go Like us on Facebook, some of us have to eat you know.

TOP VIRAL VIDEOS YOU SHOULD CHECK OUT IN NO PARTICULAR ORDER OF RANKING:

- Kolaveri Di – <http://goo.gl/2uFPP>
- Asian Backstreet Boys – <http://goo.gl/mNNNL>
- Numa Numa – <http://goo.gl/S1U2>
- Gangnum Style – <http://goo.gl/8ittD>
- Charlie the Unicorn – <http://goo.gl/DkDV>
- Jayhind TV – <http://www.jayhind.tv/>

COMICS 2012

THE FUNNIEST STRIPS

We present the Funniest web comics to tickle your funny bone

xkcd

A webcomic of romance, sarcasm, math, and language. A comic started by a geek for geeks, what else could you ask for? The creator has a degree in physics and has worked on robots at NASA! Enjoy... <http://xkcd.com>

Cyanide & Happiness

Cyanide & Happiness has the reputation of a politically irreverent, in-your-face, dark, twisted brand of humour for which no topic/subject is taboo. Filled with brilliant satire that would make your parents cringe, this webcomic is not for the faint-of-heart. <http://www.explosm.net>

CAD Comics

The acronym stands for Ctrl + Alt + Del and we'd recommend you go right back to the first ever strip published in 2002 and move up to current editions. You'll find tons of references to Quake, Unreal Tournament, and constant rants about

dial up! Today the comic is pretty much the same, but about newer games and they've made peace with dial up. Oh and do check out the "Sillies". <http://www.cad-comic.com/>

The Oatmeal

Pure genius. No other word to describe this web comic. Unless you've been living under a rock you'd already know about it. If you don't please head over to <http://theoatmeal.com>. NOW!



The Oatmeal

The Noob Comic

If you've ever played an MMORPG, you know how these worlds are filled with things that often make no sense. The Noob Comic parodies all these, and more, chronicling the "life" of a game character. <http://www.thenoobcomic.com>

Hubris!

Hubris is "a comic strip about the things I wish I was doing every day - riding my bike, horsing around on

my skateboard..." With quirky art style and a simple plotline, Hubris! is a fantastically funny webcomic <http://hubriscomics.com>

Legostar Galactica

Legostar Galactica is a refreshingly different webcomic that does away with art drawn in any form. Instead, the panels are filled with photographs of situations made using - you guessed it - Lego blocks! Cool! Fans of Star Wars, Star Trek and other similar sagas will love it. <http://www.legostargalactica.net>

Yet Another Fantasy Gamer Comic

One more in a long line of webcomics about geekdom, fantasy and gaming. What sets this comic apart that all the panels are hand-drawn and inked, and then scanned and uploaded. If you've ever played games, you'll love this comic. <http://yafgc.net>

SubCulture

One of the few webcomics with a very loyal fan following, SubCulture is filled with humour, reference and characters that are easily identifiable. Although currently on hold indefinitely (the "last" panel was on October 12th), this webcomic is worth a read for everyone just looking to have a good laugh. <http://subculturecomic.com>

For lack of a better comic

Random, absurd and downright weird. Jacob the creator catches those everyday annoying moments and turns them into comical pieces of art. A definite must read. <http://forlackofabettercomic.com/>



CRTL + ALT + DEL

WHERE'S THE FUNNY AT?

Everyone wants to know who to follow and where to get your daily LOL's here's our list

The Extraterrestrial
readersletters@thinkdigit.com

The human body comprises of 206 bones. Out of these 206 bones, the bone that matters the most is the funny bone.

We know, not everyone can laugh at themselves and others. Which is why, we have handpicked a bunch of funnies from the internet, just for you. Now Twitter is usually a paradise for the attention seekers, the depressed, the bipolar and of course, comedians.

Twitter

For your daily laughs, Twitter is filled to the brim with people who have snarky opinions over everything under the sun. And you know what's awesome? It's all summed up in 140 characters! Be it satire, internet humor, technology, parody accounts, pop culture or rants, Twitter has tones of people who will interest you. And here's a list of our favourite funnies on Twitter. Go on. Click that follow button.

@rameshshrivats

Ramesh Srivats is not a comedian. He's better than most comedians. Winner of the GQ Digital Man of the Year Award, Ramesh Srivats' tweets will entertain you with puns on culture, politics, entertainment, Bollywood and current events.

@The_HappyNoodle

Namaah's tweets are dark and unconventional, yet extremely funny. While at it, you should also check her Tumblr account which is equally awesome.

@IyerAvin

Avinash Iyer's (@IyerAvin) is the King of wordplay on Twitter. From Bollywood to current affairs to randomness, @IyerAvin's tweets scream witty with capital W.

@mojorojo

Rohan Joshi, better known as @mojorojo, is a comedian, writer and a full-time entertainer. When not performing with Vir Das, Rohan will crack you up with his funny and entertaining tweets on everything, including his gigs, which by the way, you shouldn't miss!

@supaarwoman

She refers to herself as the 'Khaleesi' (Game of Thrones fame) and people on Twitter as 'minions'. Ardent John Abraham lover, Supriya Joshi's tweets are hilarious. Did we mention she's funny?

@eclectiv

Vishweshwar Jatain, better known as @eclecticV, is one of the most intelligent and witty guys on Twitter. Sarcasm and eccentricity ooze out of Vishweshwar's tweets. Not to forget his tweets about Apple products. See! That's all we've got from Twitter. But if you're not a twit, that's alright. We understand your plight. Our list of funnies is well-thought out.

Facebook

Facebook is one of the largest social media platforms today. Plus it's quite easy and simple. It's so popular that the next friend request you'll get, could be from your Grandmother. So obviously

we couldn't have just ignored it. So here's our list of the funniest Facebook pages that you could subscribe to!

Bawatips

www.facebook.com/bawatips

On a drunken night, Victor Daruwala and Hormuz Bana came up with the idea of a digital community for the bawas (Parsis) called the Bawatips on Facebook. From jokes on Navjote to Dhanshak, Bawatips has the most amusing posts on the Parsi/Zoroastrian community. Even if you're not a Parsi, like their Bawatips page on Facebook for majja ni life! P.S. The Bawatips t-shirt is called Bawatee's!

ROFLIndia

www.facebook.com/ROFLIndia

The ROFLIndia page on Facebook has about 2, 45, 391 fans already. The page spins out comical image-based posts on topics like current affairs, food, relationships, movies and entertainment. Plus, they also let you share your image-based jokes on their page. What's not to 'Like'?

God

www.facebook.com/TheGoodLordAbove

Yes, that's the name of the page on Facebook. We swear to God, we're not kidding. But we can't say the same about the page. With over 2, 65, 135 likes, the God page on Facebook shares satirical religious posts. Definitely not for the religious! For the rest who can laugh, in the name of God, go 'Like' it now.

I F**king Love Science

www.facebook.com/IFeakingLoveScience

Even if science wasn't your favourite subject in school, you'll still love this page. The page shares some of the most intelligent science-based cartoons, jokes and photographs on Facebook. So if you love dinosaurs, chloroform or cloning, you know where to go!

Web sites

Let's admit it; we owe our sense of humor (and the habit of procrastinating) largely to the internet. Had it not been for web sites like the ones mentioned below, we'd have a lot of free time on our hands, and actually have to work or something.

Cracked.com

One of the most visited humor web sites in the world would be cracked.com. Cracked's hilarious articles on movies, science, technology, celebrities and pop-culture, will have you cracking up in no time!

TheOnion.com

When it comes to parodies, theonion.com would be your best bet. Made to look exactly like a newspaper, The Onion is



an American news satire website that has spoof articles on current affairs. With its satirical articles on the US presidential elections, theonion.com will have you in tears. Happy tears, that is.

Quora Humor

For those of you who have been living under a rock, Quora.com is a question and answer web site. How is that funny? Well, Quora has a section called Quora Humor, which hosts some of the most



@The_HappyNoodle



@rameshshrivats



@IyerAvin



@mojorojo



@supaarwoman



@eclectic V

hilarious questions. And of course, for every hilarious question there's an equally hilarious answer or three. So the next time you come up with a stupid question, you know where to go!

FakingNews.com

'Monkey bitten by a software engineer dies of stress'. Have we caught your attention yet? That's the power of the FakingNews.com. Faking News is the 'leading news satire web site of India.' As the name suggests, the web-site publishes satirical news stories on Indian politics and current affairs.

Faking 9gag.com

Please don't tell us that you don't know of 9gag.com. C'mon, it's one the most



Faking News logo

hilarious websites on the internet. 9gag.com is a funny image-based website. From memes, current affairs to trending topics, 9gag.com will always have the perfect picture to make you laugh!

textfromdog.tumblr.com

A dog is a man's best friend. You've heard that before. So it's only fair for your dog to send you texts, right? That's what textfromdog.tumblr.com is all about. It publishes fictitious SMS conversa-



Text from Dog

tions, between a dog and its owner. Textfromdog.com is so awesome that has recently inked a book deal. Need we say more? If you've got a different list that you want us to know about, let us know, we're all ears! You can find us at: www.facebook.com/thinkdigit, @digitindia, and of course you know you can always write to us at editor@thinkdigit.com. 📧

WHAT WERE THEY THINKING?

Not all products are equal, we know that, but then there are others that just make you wonder what the makers were smoking!

Jayesh Shinde
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HD DVD

When DVDs were past their prime, and the future of optical media was being debated, HD-DVD came to the fore, feeling like Superman come to planet Earth to give digital data hoarders and the entertainment industry a much needed shot in the arm. To cut a long, boring story short, HD-DVD – the future of DVDs as Toshiba had envisaged – now resides in the dustbin. While it offered more storage space (15GB) than a dual-layered DVD, HD-DVD couldn't build consensus among partners and quickly perished after a hasty launch back in 2006. It had no chance against the Sony-backed Blu-ray discs which packed in 25GB of data on a single layer. And with major movie studios preferring Sony's Blu-ray, Toshiba had to lick its wounds, accept market realities and release its own Blu-ray player in early 2009 – the ultimate insult!

Windows Vista

Seriously, what was Microsoft thinking when they launched Vista? The OS wasn't too different from Windows XP, didn't offer a killer set of features, and UAC annoyed everyone and their grandmother to no end. Sure, a steady stream of pre-release wallpapers and themes (Longhorn, anyone?) had piqued people's interest about the upcoming operating system's fresh new look and feel,

but Microsoft's cheeky recommendation for people to ramp up their hardware to run Vista's heavy cosmetic effects (Aero and whatnot) wasn't too compelling, and we actually thought Vista was slower than XP. As a result, Microsoft Vista never struck a chord among retail customers, and neither wooed its business and enterprise clients for big



Vista – something we all want to forget

ticket orders (a substantial part of Microsoft's business). The result was that Vista became the most disappointing product launched by Microsoft, so disappointing that people wouldn't switch to it even for "free"!

Apple Maps

Earlier this year, Apple released iOS 6 which included a ton of new features. Hidden among those was a replacement for Google

Maps – Apple's very own Maps app. Apple's map app had a LOT of glitches, so much so that one wondered if it was designed and put together in a drug-induced stupor. Markers were off, straight roads appeared wavy, structures were flattened and entire cities were missing! One funny online comic paying homage to Apple's map app disaster suggested that the team field-testing the new feature got lost (obviously!) and couldn't find their way back in time to inform Tim Cook that it wasn't ready for launch. For a company striving towards perfection in everything they do, this was a huge product and PR disaster for Apple; and not surprisingly, Christmas had come early for Apple bashers! The half-baked app was inspiration for a lot of gags, and made Tim Cook, Apple's CEO, apologise publicly for the first time ever.

Blackberry Playbook

After Apple launched the iPad and started dominating the tablet market throughout 2010, every other brand worth its salt assaulted the iPad with competing offerings. It was only a matter of time before RIM, the fabled Blackberry phone maker, would join the party. So when RIM suggested "Amateur hour is over" in one of its first advertisements of the Playbook (its answer to the Apple iPad) customers were expecting a compelling tablet that would blow the competition away. The Playbook was anything but compelling, and RIM's marketing words would come back to hound the company.

The Playbook was supposed to be the elite business tablet, something the iPad wasn't at the time, but instead it didn't come with some of the most basic features essential for a corporate professional buying the tablet: no native email, calendar or contacts app. That was a mistake of epic proportions! What's more, unlike Android or iOS, the Playbook didn't have many third-party apps to choose from, and that squeezed out any remaining breath out of the device.

Notion Ink Adam

In the tablet era, few products can match the Notion Ink Adam's story. In the same year the original iPad was launched, imagine a startup announcing a tablet that was even more revolutionary and feature-packed than Apple's crown jewel. That's exactly what Rohan Shraavan's Bangalore-based Notion Ink did, teasing tablet enthusiasts around the world with a device so tantalizingly wonderful that it looked too good to be true. A lot of hype led to burgeoning public expectation and the result was a product that fell flat on its face and became embroiled in a controversy. Before it was unveiled at CES 2011, rumours began circulating that



Notion Ink Adam - too good to be true

Notion Ink's Adam had bitten off more than it could chew. The company took pre-orders for the tablet but deliveries were delayed due to production issues. What made matters worse is that Notion Ink refused to speak to the media (including us) during this critical phase of its young entrepreneurial life, and ended up losing all credibility.

Apple Ping

Social media web sites are vast, broad-based online properties for one simple reason: to attract a lot of people. So the idea of a social

network only for iTunes users to discuss their love of music seemed ludicrous, not to mention myopic and lacking foresight. The same people were doing similar things more easily on Facebook! So it was no surprise that Apple's Ping social media attempt was ruthlessly beheaded and killed earlier this month. May it rest in peace and never resurface!

Microsoft Kin phones

Long before Microsoft got its smartphone act together, and had no clue how to attack Apple's lead in the smartphone market, it launched Kin. There were two models up for grabs, Kin ONE and Kin TWO. The phones were supposed to be for youngsters hooked onto social networks, and an important project within the company trying to attract Gen Y with close to US \$1 billion riding on its success. Success was too busy in bed with the Apple iPhone though, and the Kin phones were a resounding failure (our opinion), for they were sold in the market for just over a month before production stopped and it was officially declared a failure (industry opinion). This failure cost Steve Ballmer, Microsoft CEO, half of his annual bonus. We'll bet he wasn't jumping up and down excitedly that tax year.

Google Wave

Even to this day, no one really knows what Google Wave was. Sure, you can watch the Google tutorials - but if your head doesn't spin after the first few minutes, you aren't watching it properly, or probably dozing off in boredom mixed with confusion. Google Wave was heralded as a "real-time messaging platform" (whatever that means!) when it was unveiled back in May 2009. Sergey Brin, co-founder of Google, went as far as to say that Wave would "set a new benchmark



Google Wave - waves goodbye maybe

for interactivity." Maybe he was referring to fellow Googlers, and not the general public, when Brin spoke about Google Wave. Sporting an interface that was a mish-mash of Twitter, Gmail and real-time documents editing in Google Docs, no wonder users logged in, got the living daylight scared out of them, and never decided to come back to give it another chance. Ahead of its time or not, Google Wave was definitely confusing.

Google Buzz

While talking about Wave, it's difficult to leave out Buzz, another one of Google's rare slip-ups. When Google hadn't quite announced full-fledged war on Facebook, and while it was still too busy being a search engine giant, it woke up and realised that it lacked a compelling social network service in its umbrella of products (They forgot about Orkut we suppose). Thus Buzz was born back in February 2010, hoping to champion Google's social cause against the likes of Twitter and Facebook. But before Google's proverbial social silver bullet had left the barrel, it had become a privacy breach for hundreds of early users of the service. Google faced a lot of negative press and angry users, and critics ridiculed Buzz as a mere afterthought by Google. And Facebook was on its way to world domination!

iPhone 4 Antennagate

For Apple, the year 2010 holds bittersweet memories - the original iPad was launched that year, and the world also had to witness the iPhone 4 Antennagate. Soon after the iPhone 4 went on sale in June, a lot of users and web sites started reporting the phone losing signal when held on its antenna band. All the irate iPhone 4 users complaining about the phone's reception woes provoked an amusing response from the late Steve Jobs - he simply said that everyone was holding the phone the wrong way! The problem refused to go away even after Apple released a software update, hoping to fix it. At this point, deathgrip had become a household term in the U.S., and Nokia and Motorola had ridiculed Apple iPhone 4's antenna woes in two of its own smartphone campaigns. Steve Jobs, in a press conference, defended iPhone 4's design and said the deathgrip problem was industry-wide, and promised iPhone 4 users a free bumper case to amplify the phone's signal reception. And while all this was happening, tech media and readers couldn't stop laughing. 📱

Gaming Gear

We take a look at some of the hottest gaming accessories such as gaming mice, gaming wheels and keyboards and so on

Ultrabooks Test

14 competitors face-off against each other in this battle for the best Ultrabook in town



Big things in Mini packages

Nimish Sawant

nimish.sawant@thinkdigit.com

Mini ITX form factor boards are dime-a-dozen in the market. Some of them come with on-board processors, whereas others are like any normal motherboard – just having the chipset and you will have to add in all the other components. We decided to concentrate on the former for the purpose of this test, and will cover the latter in the coming months. We are all familiar with power-hungry rigs which are meant for resource-intensive tasks. But there are some users who want a very basic low-power setup, needed to handle the most

basic tasks. There are a range of boards out there in the market for this set of discerning users, who have a mainstream PC for all their work and who are looking to get one for casual use which has a compact footprint – perfect for a Home theatre PC.

The most common processor sported amongst all the participants was the AMD E 350 with the Hudson M1 and Hudson D1 chipset. On the other hand we had the Intel Cedar Trail processors with the Intel NM10 chipset. There was a lone board with the VIA chipset.

The Contenders AMD Boards

Let us start off with the most common processor – the AMD

E350 boards. ASUS E35M1-I and E35M1-I Deluxe have a similar nomenclature, but they are both very different in appearance and the features provided. While the E35M1-I looks well spaced in the sense that there is enough room around the CPU region and RAM slots, although the layout of components is very dense. The E35M1-I Deluxe looks quite congested thanks to the huge passive heatsink along with heatpipes that seems to cover majority of the board area. Both the boards have a passive heatsink. The E35M1-I has six SATA 6 Gbps ports, a single PCIe x16 slot and basic connectivity ports on the back panel including USB 2.0 ports, a LAN port and D-Sub and DVI ports.

The E35M1-I on the otherhand leaves no stone unturned as far as on-board features go. It has a dedicated WiFi adapter slotted in the board, whose wires make their way out to the WiFi antennas. It also has two USB 3.0 ports, an eSATA port and Bluetooth port alongwith five 6 Gbps SATA ports. As far as the feature set is concerned, there was no other board that could match the E35M1-I Deluxe. You will also find a MemOK button on the board which is generally seen on the more mainstream boards which is used to debug the DRAM modules. There is no provision to add a fan on either of the ASUS boards.

The ASUS boards come with UEFI BIOS now commonly

Want to turn your flat-screen TV into a second PC? We give you the lowdown on the Mini ITX boards to make your next HTPC

A NEW WORLD RECORD

Intel Core i7 3770K Speed

7.136 GHz



BORN TO BE FAST

Z77^{OC} FORMULA



- DIGI POWER DESIGN
- DUAL-STACK MOSFET
- PREMIUM ALLOY CHOKE
- MULTIPLE FILTER CAP
- TWIN-POWER COOLING HEATSINK
- 8 LAYER PCB, 4 X 20Z COPPER



Z77 OC Formula

Designed by World Overclocking Champion, Nick Shih

NickShih



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ASRock India



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ASRock

Dropbox for Android

Dropbox rolls out update to its Android App with a new photos tab feature inside the app



Amazon Kindle in Japan

Amazon launched its first Japanese language Kindle, the Paperwhite, along with the debut of the Japanese Kindle store



Brand	ASUS	ASUS	Gigabyte	Gigabyte	Digilite	Foxconn
Model Name	E35M1-I	E35M1-I Deluxe	GA E350N	GA E240N	AHD1S-K	AHD1S-V
Price (in ₹)	4,950	6,950	4,300	3,700	3,500	3,300
Features and Specs (Out of 60)	21.66	34.5	25.68	18.78	19.56	19.56
Performance (Out of 40)	21.87	25.48	21.03	14.08	22.11	23.95
Grand Total (Out of 100)	43.53	59.98	46.71	32.86	41.67	43.51
Features and Specs						
Memory Slots / Type	2	2	2	2	2	2
Maximum Memory supported	8	8	8	16	8	8
Processor onboard	E-350	E-350	E-350	E-240	E-350	E-350
Processor speed (GHz)	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.5	1.6	1.6
No. of Cores	2	2	2	1	2	2
Graphics chip onboard	Radeon HD 6310	Radeon HD 6310	Radeon HD 6310	Radeon HD 6310	Radeon HD 6310	Radeon HD 6310
Chipset	Hudson M1	Hudson M1	Hudson M1	FCH A45	Hudson D1	Hudson D1
No. of SATA 2 ports	0	0	0	4	2	2
No. of SATA 3 ports	6	5	4	0	0	0
No. of PCI slots	0	0	0	1	0	0
No. of PCIe x16 slots	1	1	1	0	1	1
Integrated Audio Controller	VIA VT1708S	Realtek ALC892	Realtek ALC892	Realtek ALC887	NA	NA
Heat Sink (for processor and chipset)	Passive	Passive	Passive + Fan	Passive + Fan	Passive + Fan	Passive + Fan
No. of USB 2.0 / USB 3.0 ports	6 / 0	4 / 2	4 / 0	4 / 0	6 / 0	6 / 0
No. of LAN ports	1	1	1	1	1	1
No. of eSATA ports	0	1	0	0	0	0
Optical S/PDIF port	0	1	1	0	0	0
On-board WiFi (Y/N)	N	Y	N	0	0	0
All Solid state caps	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N
Clear CMOS button	N	N	N	N	N	N
Power / Reset button	N	N	N	N	N	N
UEFI BIOS (Y/N)	Y	Y	N	N	N	N
USB 2.0 header	3	3	2	2	2	2
USB 3.0 header	0	1	0	0	0	0
POST error code	N	N	N	N	N	N
HDMI port	0	1	1	1	1	1
DVI Port	1	1	1	0	1	1
D-Sub port	1	0	1	1	1	1
DisplayPort port	0	0	0	0	0	0
Parallel Port	0	0	0	1	0	0
USB Charger	N	Y	Y	N	N	N
Bluetooth	N	Y	N	N	N	N
Performance						
Fritz Chess Benchmark						
Relative Speed	3.25	3.26	3.24	1.45	3.22	3.24
Kile nodes per second	1558	1564	1555	697	1550	1554
Unigine Heave 2.5 (1280x1024, low settings)						
Score	142	104	110	102	104	105
FPS	5.6	4.1	4.2	4.1	4.1	4.1
CineBench R11.5						
Open GL	7.57	7.57	7.58	4.43	7.55	7.55
Multicore	0.58	0.62	0.59	0.27	0.62	0.62
WinRAR file compression/decompression (KB/s)	480	483	478	235	440	440
USB data transfer (in secs)						
4 GB Sequential Write	166	48.94	149.54	145	144.35	144.35
4 GB Assorted Write	208.23	91.63	194.24	207.25	187.46	187.46
4 GB Sequential Read	159.26	59.35	158.54	143	145	145
4 GB Assorted Read	152.42	61.96	144.25	147	144	144
Apple iTunes encoding (in secs)	244.8	255.98	259.5	408.69	253.4	248.79
HD Clips CPU Utilizaiton (in per cent)						
Clip 1	40	47	48	84	28	18
Clip 2	56	51	61	NA	38	28
ArcSoft Media Converter (100 MB VOB to AVI conversion) (in secs)	52	50	54	112	54	51
Gaming (in FPS)						
FarCry 2 (1024x768, High, DX10)	10	11	10	12	10	11
Aliens Vs Predators (1024x768, low, DX11)	7	7.1	7.2	6.4	6.4	6.4



Huawei Ascend P1 LTE

Huawei and Airtel unveiled India's first 4G smartphone with Android 4.0 and 1.5GHz dual-core Qualcomm Snapdragon S4 processor

TweetDeck for Web

Twitter updated its web and PC based app TweetDeck with changes in designs, customisation where users can use settings to customise font size

Motherboards Test

Intel D2700DC	Intel D2500HN	Intel D2700MU	ASRock PV530A-ITX
4,176	3,306	4,060	3,290
16.02	15.06	17.82	15.96
21.66	17.24	21.78	7.85
37.68	32.30	39.60	23.81
2	2	2	2
4	4	4	4
D2700	D2500	D2700	VIA PV530
2.13	1.8	2.13	1.8
2	2	2	1
Yes	Yes	Yes	VIA Chrome 9 HD
Intel NM10	Intel NM10	Intel NM10	VIA VX900
2	2	2	2
0	0	0	0
1	1	1	1
0	0	0	0
Intel HD Audio	Intel HD Audio	Intel HD Audio	VIA VT1705
Passive	Passive	Passive	Passive + Fan
4 / 0	4 / 0	4 / 0	4 / 0
1	1	1	1
0	0	0	0
0	0	1	0
0	0	0	N
N	N	N	N
N	N	N	N
N	N	N	N
3	2	3	2
0	0	0	0
N	N	N	N
1	0	1	0
1	0	1	0
0	1	0	1
0	0	0	0
0	1	0	1
N	N	N	N
N	N	N	N
4.45	2.62	4.42	1.09
2133	1255	2123	521
NA	NA	NA	NA
NA	NA	NA	NA
NA	NA	NA	NA
0.71	0.4	0.72	0.12
712	466	711	227
146	148	146	161.62
176	177	178	237
127	128	127	132.51
129	127	125.7	144.26
279.11	322.85	277.76	600.43
10	10	10	45
12	12	12	100
42	60	41	203
2	1	2	5
NA	NA	NA	NA

seen on mainstream boards. The ASUS AI Suite II comes with the board allowing you to monitor your voltage and temperature settings, overclocking the boards, energy management and so on.

Gigabyte had variety in terms of the on-board processors and chipsets. The E350N board houses the AMD E350 processor whereas the E240N has the E240 processor along with the A45 FCH chipset. Despite having different innards, on first glance you cannot tell one board from the other. In fact, even their back-panel IO ports are identical. Both boards have an active heatsink for the processor and a passive heatsink for the chipset. The fan material is very sturdy and the fins do not bend easily. Both the boards also sport serial and parallel ports and have a single PCI slot. It is clear that they are targeted more towards office use thanks to the

legacy ports and absence of on-board WiFi. Gigabyte has a USB 3.0 model called the E350N-USB3 which we sadly did not get for this comparison. Thankfully both boards have an HDMI out which is a thoughtful addition along with the D-Sub port. USB charging support is present on both the boards. There were quite a few electrolytic capacitors, whereas both ASUS boards had all solid-state capacitors. But considering, boards in this category will be used for low power applications, it is alright to have electrolytic capacitors to keep costs low. The BIOS on the Gigabyte boards is still the non UEFI one. The other two AMD boards were the

Foxconn AHD1S-V and Digilite AHD1S-K. As you may have already noticed, the names are similar. When we opened the packaging, we noticed that the two boards looked identical. On closer inspection, we removed the Digilite sticker on the Digilite board and as expected, we found Foxconn emblazoned on the board. Long story short, the Digilite board is basically a Foxconn board with the Digilite branding. While checking



Asus E35M1-I DELUXE

online, we couldn't find any AHD1S-V board from Foxconn but the AHD1S-K board. The difference between the two boards is that the one with the K moniker has a completely passive heatsink whereas the one with the V moniker, which we had, has a passive heatsink along with a fan. The Digilite board too had the same kind of cooling mechanism. The boards have a well-spaced layout and majority of the capacitors on board are electrolytic type. The Hudson D1 chipset on these boards is covered by a passive heat-sink. One major difference between the Hudson M1 and D1 is that the D1 does not support SATA 6 Gbps ports. The SATA ports

Apple iBooks 3.0

Apple's iBooks 3.0 Update has finally gone live in the App Store, with features similar to the Amazon Kindle



Microsoft Office 2013

Microsoft confirmed that the company is planning to release a native iOS and Android version of Office 2013 next year

HOW WE TESTED

We called for Mini ITX boards that sported a processor onboard, as we were looking at boards that will make for a good home-theatre PC or a second PC at your home. The only components we used on these boards for all these boards were the Corsair HX 620W power supply, the BenQ EW2430 monitor, an Intel SSD with the Windows 7 64-bit OS (except for certain boards which required Windows 7 32-bit OS) and Kingston HyperX 4 GB RAM (except for some boards which only took laptop RAM memory in which case we used Kingston 4 GB RAM). We did not put in any discrete GPU as not all boards came with a PCIe x16 slot.

We put a lot of stress on the features offered by the boards, as they are entry level boards ideal for the most basic tasks. Boards with USB 3.0 and on-board Wi-Fi got more points. Similarly boards, which had an on-board processor with internal graphics helped give better scores in the graphics related benchmarks. We ran the boards through our standard set of benchmark tests, at lower settings of course. Since these boards are not meant to be performance power-houses, we kept the weightage lower on the performance parameters which weren't very pertinent such as rendering or gaming. We gave the HD movie viewing experience a higher score as that is one task that we expect an HTPC to do best. We noted the CPU utilization while both our test HD clips were running, with the help of a utility called CPUMon. Also higher stress was laid on the USB read speeds, as we realised that since we are looking at an HTPC board, we would have to get most of the content from an external media if you didn't already have a shared network. Overall, we gave a 60 percent weightage to features and specs and 40 percent to performance.

on both the boards are placed very close to the DIMM slots. Although both boards lack USB 3.0 ports, they feature HDMI, DVI and D-sub ports.

Intel Boards

In the Intel stable we had three boards namely D2700DC, D2500HN and D2700MU all based on the Intel Atom Cedar Trail platform. All three boards look very similar in terms of board layout with a few additions and subtractions here and there. One major difference between these boards and the ones from AMD was the presence of SO-DIMM slots. Other component layout design is more or less similar. The D2700DC and D2700MU sport a PCIe mini card slot, to add in an mSATA component. The heatsink is passive and has many fins to enhance cooling. The D2500HN and the D2700MU sport the parallel

and serial ports that we saw on the Gigabyte AMD boards above, which means that these boards are clearly targeted for office use. The D2700DC on the other hand has the HDMI port along with the optical S/PDIF out ideal for home use.

VIA Board

ASRock PV530-ITX was the only board we got which was based on a VIA chipset. It houses the VIA PV530 processor along with VIA VX900 chipset. The board layout is quite decent with the processor having a passive cooler with a fan and the chipset having just the passive heatsink. Just like the Gigabyte boards,

Chipset info

Chipset	Hudson M1	Hudson D1	Intel NM10	VX900
Platform	Brazos	Value Lynx	PineTrail	VIA PV530
SATA	6 x 6Gbps	6 x 3Gbps	2 x 3Gbps	2 x 3Gbps
USB 2.0 ports	14	14	8	8
USB 3.0 ports	0	0	0	0
PCI	0	4	2	2
PCIe	4	4	0	0

this one too comes with legacy ports, there are more electrolytic capacitors than solid-state ones, a PCI slot and no USB 3.0 ports. The option to charge your USB devices while the system is in stand-by or off mode is a good plus.

Performance

With the Intel boards we noticed a peculiar thing. When we installed the 64-bit Windows 7 OS, it installed all drivers except the graphics driver. Only when we installed a 32-bit version did we see the Driver downloads section on the Intel website showing the GMA drivers. The native screen resolution of our monitor was supported with Windows 32-bit OS whereas the 64-bit OS only went upto 1280x1024. While the HD clips ran smooth, keeping the CPU utilisation under 15 percent, lower even than the AMD boards, the graphics on the Intel boards wasn't enough to pass the CineBench R11.5 Open GL test. Gaming is out of the question on these boards with their onboard graphics.

Speaking of gaming, even the AMD boards which sported DX11, did not return any great frame rates either for resolutions as low as 1024x768. So if you want to game on the AMD boards, you will have to make do with games that are old and they should be run on low resolutions. All the AMD boards ran both the HD clips quite



Foxconn AHD1S-V

smoothly but CPU utilisation was not as great as that seen on the Intel boards. Encoding songs from .MP3 to .AAC was fastest on the ASUS E35M1-I followed by the Foxconn AHD1S-V. The Intel boards were quite close. ASRock VIA board was the slowest when it came to encoding music. When it came to transcoding a video clip from .VOB to .DIVX we found the Intel D2700MU and D2700DC boards to coming out the fastest thanks to hyper-threaded cores, followed by the E350 boards. Here again the ASRock VIA board was the slowest.

Verdict

We awarded the Best Buy to Foxconn AHD1S-V board for its decent performance at very economical pricing of ₹3,300. If you are looking for the most basic board which will playback your HD content and help you with casual surfing and document work, go for the Foxconn AHD1S-V board as it offers the best bang for the buck.

The Editor's Pick was awarded to the ASUS E35M1-I Deluxe board. This board offers a boatload of features such as USB 3.0 ports, on-board WiFi which makes it an ideal candidate for an HTPC and perfect for wireless content streaming.



Asus PadFone 2

Asus makes 4.7inch PadFone 2 official with a quad-core processor and a slimmer design

AMD Z-60 microprocessor

AMD unveils its new Z-60 microprocessor which aims to squeeze into the Windows 8 tablet market above Intel's Atom line and below the lowest-power Core i3 processor



Prepare For Battle!

₹1.8 lakh worth of gaming gear slug it out in the ultimate showdown! Who won? The answer is more complicated than you might think

Anirudh Regidi

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Every test in our office is something special, but the day we walked into office and caught sight of the piles of boxes stuffed to the brim with some of the best gaming gear available today was probably one of the best days ever! Maybe the iPod docks came close but not that close. Now products like graphics cards and mobile phones, cameras, etc. are fun, but what you really end up doing is running benchmarks for hours on end

and we get very little time to actually play with those products. But gaming gear? What do you do but play with them all day? The situation couldn't be more ideal. Wake up in the morning (!), go to office, play games for 12 hours straight, eat food, sleep, repeat!

All of us have our own favourites now and the diametrically opposite views we had on many of the products is clear proof that purchasing the right gaming peripheral is a highly personal decision and there really isn't much we can do about it. Which is why,

like last time, we are not rating these products based on their performance, but are going to talk about them and our experiences with them and whatever quirks we noticed which were relevant to us and feel are relevant to you. Everyone has their own individual preferences of course, but hopefully, after reading this, you will be able to make an informed decision regarding what product is right for you.

RACING WHEELS

This is a category that isn't really very popular as far

as peripherals go, but this is mainly because there are very few people willing to spend a lot of money on a device that has only one use. The thing is, however, that these are the most fun devices we've received for testing, with everyone from Robert downwards (including our product manager) having a go at the wheels and really enjoying the experience. A wheel is a significant investment and is a purchasing decision that cannot be taken lightly. For a racing wheel you need, more than any other feature, analogue steering and pedal input. If that



Eken Leopard Tablet

Eken Electronics launches Leopard tablet ranging from ₹6,900 – ₹11,999 depending upon 7-inch, 8-inch, 9.7-inch screen size

Mozilla Firefox Metro

Mozilla releases Firefox metro preview for Windows 8 modern UI interface

HOW WE TESTED

We played games. A lot of games!

PC

- F1 2012
- Grid
- NFS: Shift 2
- Off-Road drive
- CS: Global Offensive
- Torchlight 2

PS3

- Gran Turismo 5

Test Rig

- CPU: Intel Core i7 875k
- RAM: 4GB DDRIII 1600MHz
- HDD: Kingston SSD + WD Velociraptor
- GPU: Elitegroup nVidia GeForce 560
- Monitor: BenQ GL2750

Console

- PlayStation 3 with Dell S2740L

and then discovers that there are no bundled batteries and all the nearby stores are closed for the weekend. After firing off emails to Logitech, demanding that they send the adapter ASAP, we settled down to some indignant muttering about how inconsiderate people are and how they don't care about people's feelings (no offence to Logitech here, just a gamer's rant).

That is of course, till we finally got the adapter a few days later. All was forgiven and forgotten and we smugly settled into our seat and had a go with the wheel. Everyone did actually and it was quite some time before we actually got down to trying to review the wheel more objectively.

Gaming experience

We tried out quite a few games with this wheel and we must say, the experience was a lot of fun. The more arcade-type games such as GRID were fun to play, but games like Shift 2 and GT5 really came into their own with this wheel. The force-feedback we felt was really strong and collisions would even have the wheel slipping out of our hands. Taking a corner at speed would have us really fighting the wheel and drifting was also quite a challenge. Overall, a really fun experience.

One major complaint we have with the wheel is with the gear shift. The paddle-

shifters are fun and functional, but the actual gear lever feels very flimsy and doesn't have the weight and feel of a proper gear shift. We avoided using it as much as possible and stuck to the paddle-shifts or automatic transmission. A better designed gear-shift would have really placed this wheel at the top of any racing fanatic's must have list. Especially when you consider the price tag.

We had a few of the non-drivers among us asking if the experience was similar to driving a real car and the answer to that is a very loud and resounding NO. The wheel is a lot of fun to use but don't for a

wheel and on the gear assembly which can be mapped any way you like, not to mention paddle-shifters with the steering wheel. Overall, the wheel is quite well-built and feels very sturdy. The wheel and gear assembly have clamps that will allow you to attach them quite tightly to any surface, though we recommend putting in a strip of rubber between the clamps for a better grip as we managed to yank off the gear assembly in some of our more frenzied moments.

Verdict: Officially priced at a prodigious ₹30,000, this is insanely expensive considering the features on offer. Even at ₹10,000 less (as seen on

Company	Steelseries	Nitho	Nitho	Logitech
Model	Simiraceway SRW-S1	Drive Pro V16	Drive Pro 3	G27
Price (in ₹)	10,168	4,499	4,903	29,899
Features				
Analogue steering	Y	Y	Y	Y
Analogue pedals	Y	N	N	Y
Force feedback	N	N	N	Y
Steering movement (degrees)	360	270	270	900

moment think that driving a real car is replicated that well. What we realized while playing those various games is that the wheel isn't of much use in helping us win races in arcade games like GRID (fun though the experience was), but almost essential with simulation games like Shift 2 and GT5 which require precise analogue inputs.

With the G27 you basically get a wheel (duh), a set of floor-pedals (accelerator, brake and clutch) and a 6 speed + reverse gear shift. The gear mechanism and pedals connect to the steering column which connects to the PC and PS3 via USB. Additional power is required for the wheel motors and the wheel will not work without it. There are additional buttons on the

Flipkart), this is very expensive and you need to be a really hardcore racing fanatic with money to splurge to want this wheel enough to buy it.

Nitho Drive PRO V16 and Drive PRO 3

These two wheels from NITHO are low-budget racing wheels and while they're quite decent, after playing with the monster that is the G27, we could only look at these with a certain sense of detachment.

The wheels are of decent quality but they are built to a price and feel cheap. Both wheels have suction cups at the bottom which while useful, do not provide as much grip as we would like, and there is a bit of see-sawing when playing a

input is not linear and precise, your actual in-game experience will not be as satisfying and you might as well play with a gamepad or keyboard.

Logitech G27

This is the most expensive product we got and frankly the most attention grabbing. The moment we set eyes on this, we just knew that we had to play with it. As we scrambled to hunt out a worthy game to put this beast through its paces we couldn't help but feel just a little bit excited, giggling randomly with huge grins plastered across our faces. The huge disappointment we felt when we found out that we hadn't received the power adapter that goes with the wheel can only be felt by a child who receives the most awesome toy in the world



Logitech G27

Google Virtual Keyboards

Google now brings 100 virtual keyboards to Gmail and now supports typing in 75 languages



Kobian Mercury mTab7

Kobian has introduced a new Android-based tablet Mercury mTab 7 at Rs. 6,499 which runs on Android 4.0 operating system and is powered by a 1.2 GHz Cortex A8 processor

Gaming Gear Test

game, where you tend to keep pulling the wheel towards yourself and the entire assembly rocks back and forth on the flimsy cups. The wheels also don't have feedback as good as the G27's, but rather, they offer some resistance and at least have auto-centering.

What was frustrating with the wheels was that there was quite a bit of input lag, where we would turn the wheel, but the game would respond a fraction of a second later. This was very frustrating in high-speed races. It almost felt like the game was waiting for the wheel to settle for a set amount of time before responding. Another irritant was that the accelerator and brake pedals were, for some inconceivable reason, mapped to the paddle-shifts as well. This was exceptionally frustrating in games and it took us quite some



Nitho Drive PRO 3

time to figure out that remapping was possible but we never actually managed to do it and the process failed many times. Also, the pedals would not

work in analogue mode in our games, forcing us to keep traction control on high most of the time. The wheels also seemed to have a very large dead-zone which we couldn't eliminate via any in-game settings.

Verdict: The lack of precision in these wheels and the prices, lead us to conclude that these wheels are more suited for arcade games such as NFS: MW or GRID (with assists on) and are not meant for anything more than having a bit of fun - they are cheap, so they might work out.

Steelseries SRW-S1

Among the most unique devices we've come across in a long time, the device has to be held in the air, like a Wii controller, and it uses extremely sensitive accelerometers to measure the rotation of the wheel and translate it into in-game motion. This wheel has been specifically designed for one game, Simraceway (we've put it on the DVD this month) and works flawlessly with it. It can also be easily mapped to games like F12012 or Shift 2 as a custom controller.

This is by far the most precise controller we used and we quite liked its portability and build quality. It feels really sturdy and the analogue paddles and gear levers are well-built and conveniently placed. Holding the wheel in your hand, you can't help but feel like you've got a real racing wheel in your



Steelseries SRW-S1

hands, what with the plethora of buttons and knobs, almost all of which can be mapped any way you like and the glowing LEDs that indicate revs.

The one thing that this controller sorely misses out on is some sort of stand to mount the wheel on. Your shoulders can get quite painful if you're a geek like us whose flimsy muscles can't support the weight of the wheel for long periods of time. The degree of precision offered by this controller will really be appreciated by hardcore gamers, but those looking for a fancy wheel with feedback should look elsewhere.

Verdict: This wheel is definitely one for pro racers and we would very highly recommend this wheel if it wasn't for the price. Paying ₹10,000 for this wheel here is exorbitant and the \$119 that it is actually worth (in the U.S.) is a far more reasonable price and ideal for this device.

GAMING MICE

There are gaming mice literally everywhere. Any and every manufacturer has their own

series of gaming mice and they throw acronyms and jargon at you like confetti at a birthday party. Most of it doesn't mean a thing and what you actually need is a mouse you're comfortable with and does what you want it to do. Just because a mouse has 101 buttons doesn't make it better than a mouse which has only two. If you need 101 buttons, then of course you don't have a choice and you'll take such a mouse. but as we mentioned earlier, not everyone wants the same thing and therefore, we can't recommend a mouse to everyone and say, "Here, this is the mouse you should buy." 16,000 DPI doesn't matter if you're not going to play at more than 1600 and we're quite certain that many of you will just use the features because they're there rather than because you need to use them.

You need to figure out what sort of a gamer you are and what you need from a mouse. The problem with a fully-customizable mouse is that, unless you're a real pro who requires it, you'll spend more time fiddling with the weights and DPI settings instead of actually playing with it. You'll start losing at CS and you'll think that maybe a little less weight is needed, or maybe those low-friction skates would help and you get distracted. Some people revel in it of course and if you do, well, that's the mouse for you then.

ASRock
Get One, The Best One

ASRock Motherboards awarded by DIGIT & CHIP

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CHIP

CHIP

Z77 Extreme6

X79 Extreme6

Z68 Extreme7 Gen3

Z68 Extreme3 Gen3

A75 Extreme6

A55M-HVS

Fatal1ty 990FX Professional

Opera Mobile 12.1

Opera has updated its mobile browser for the Android platform introducing SPDY, WebSockets, fraud detection and better CSS and HTML5 support



Angry Birds Star Wars

Rovio releases the new version of its popular series Angry Birds Star Wars in partnership with Lucasfilm on November 8th

Company	Steelseries	Steelseries	Steelseries	Steelseries	Steelseries	Steelseries	Corsair	Corsair	
Model	KINZU V2	Sensei (Fnatic)	Sensei (RAW)	SENSEI Pro Grade Laser	Diablo III	KANA	M-60	M-90	
Price (in ₹)	1,500	8,665	5,200	7,590	5,999	4,237	3,920	4,480	
Features									
Button Count	3	8	8	8	8	6	8	15	
braided cable (y/n)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	
Adjustable weights (y/n)	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	
dpi switch (y/n)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	
DPI indicator	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	
DPI/CPI range	400-3200	1-5700	90-5670	1-5700	1-5700	400-3200	upto 5700	upto 5700	
profile switch	N	Y	N	Y	N	N	N	Y	
Profile indicator (y/n)	N	Y	N	Y	N	N	N	N	
Misc	NA	32-bit ARM processor, LCD, 11400 DCPI	NA	32-bit ARM processor, LCD, 11400 DCPI	Diablo III artwork	NA	Aluminium Body, Adjustable weights	Aluminium Body	

Steelseries

First up are the Steelseries mice. These were the most numerous but, unfortunately, when we ripped through the boxes, we found that most of the mice were the same. We received multiple Kinzuses and Senseis and a Kana and a Diablo III edition Sensei. On further inspection we found that the multiple Senseis were



Steelseries Kinzu

actually 4 different “variants” of the Sensei in about four different colours and the two Kinzuses were identical but had different colour schemes.

Speaking of Sensei, Steelseries has taken a very “zen” approach to designing these mice. They’re very smooth, almost elegant (except for the garishly coloured orange one) and have a very unruffled look about them. Unfortunately, some might call them a bit too plain (we would). Steelseries did try to tone down that austerity by adding some funky colour

schemes but that just ended up looking worse.

The cheapest of the Steelseries mice start at about ₹2,000 and we couldn’t have been more disappointed with its build quality. The Logitech G300 is cheaper and feels better built (though the design is a bit dodgy). Take the Kana for example - looks half decent but the single thumb buttons are downright flimsy and due to their odd placement, we ended up randomly hitting those buttons while we played. It’s the same with the Kinzu and it’s only the Sensei that brings some semblance of quality to these mice. Bear in mind that this is ₹4,000 plus mouse we’re talking about here (₹7,000 for the Sensei) and for that price you’ll get the likes of the Corsair M90 or the Logitech G9x.

These mice themselves are excellent, with very good sen-



CM Storm Recon



Steelseries Kana

sors and precise tracking. Some, like the higher-end Sensei, even have LCDs at the bottom and support custom profiles but spending ₹8,000 on such a mouse seems way too high. Do note that many pros swear by these mice, so Steelseries must be doing something right, though we don’t know what as we didn’t notice any difference between the Fnatic, RAW and regular Sensei in terms of gaming. They each have different specs on paper but the higher DCPI (as Steelseries calls it) seems more like PMPO figures for audio than any relevant value. Sure, if you want 16,000 DCPI and DPI increments in steps of 90, go ahead, get the Fnatic or RAW edition.

Verdict: Excellent sensors and decent ergonomics hampered by high prices and low build quality. At less than half the price, the Razer Abyssus or Logitech G400 seem like much

better deals. The only mouse we would consider in this lineup is the Sensei. The others are just too badly built to justify the price.

Cooler Master

We got three CoolerMaster mice for this review, two of which we’ve already reviewed in the past: The Spawn and the Sentinel Advance, the only difference being that the Sentinel now comes with an upgraded sensor. Both are good



Corsair C60

mice and the Spawn has by far the better grip (for a claw gripper) and is quite a decent mouse to behold. One quirk with the Spawn is that it was the only mouse in the entire comparison that wouldn’t work without a mouse-pad or similar surface underneath. Gaming wasn’t that much fun though and we could barely snipe in CS, but that could very well be a function of the way we held the mouse.

Ballmer: More MS hardware

In an interview to BBC, Microsoft CEO Steve Ballmer confirmed that the company will launch more hardware in the near future <http://dgit.in/RNsFmr>



Google Drive for Android

Google Drive adds new features to its android app which allows users to create folder, upload to folder, and move to folder with new options to auto sync

Gaming Gear Test

Logitech	Logitech	Logitech	Logitech	Cooler Master	Cooler Master	Cooler Master
G400	G9x	G500	G300	CM Storm Sentinel Advance II	CM Storm Recon	Spawn
2,095	4,500	4,000	1,725	3,999	3,000	2,250
8	7	7	9	8	9	7
N	Y	Y	N	Y	N	N
N	Y	Y	N	Y	N	N
Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	N
400-3600	200-5700	200-5700	500-2500	200-8200	800-4000	800-3500
Y	Y	N	N	Y	N	N
N	Y	N	N	Y	N	N
Claims to replace the MX518	Adjustable weights, Interchangeable body	Adjustable weights	NA	128KB memory, adjustable weights	32KB memory	32KB memory



Logitech G500

As mentioned earlier, choose a mouse that suits your play style. This one didn't suit ours, but there will be some who love it.

The Sentinel is also a good mouse, but we've never really been a fan of the ergonomics or the design. But it's a feature-rich mouse and includes an LCD display and other bells and whistles that you would expect in a fancy mouse, including extra weights and skates.

The new entrant here is the Recon. A slightly unusual looking mouse, this one is all rubber and plastic and gives the impression that it was carved out of a hunk of rubber from an SUV tyre. The mouse is quite nice though, ergonomic and a pleasure to use. The mouse does feel a tad too narrow and people with large hands might be in trouble. The thumb-buttons are easily depressed and the middle-click a bit too hard to press.

Verdict: The Recon is an excellent mouse at the price



Corsair C90

(₹3,000) and worth considering seriously. The Spawn is subject to your play style and the Sentinel is frankly, quite uninteresting if you don't like the design. It is a decent mouse though and good for people with large hands.

Corsair

The M90 and M60 mice from Corsair had us drooling over their cool design and Aluminium body. The mice are very well designed and feel exceptionally sturdy (obvious given the liberal amount of Aluminium used) and were very comfortable to use as well. We instantly fell in love with the ergonomics of the mice and in fact, these are the mice that this reviewer spent most of his time with. Everything about these mice felt very sturdy and

heavy-duty they're just very well made. The essential difference between the two mice, other than the slight difference in design, is that the M90 is supposedly geared more towards MMOs and the M60 towards FPS gaming. So while the M60 comes with adjustable weights, the M90 comes with a multitude of buttons (all the extra ones are on one side). In practice we found both mice to be excellent, the only drawback being that the M90's thumb buttons were hard to press and a little awkwardly placed.

Verdict: What is there to say? These are excellent, well-built mice and well worth it at the price they come for. Superb ergonomics and a unique



Logitech G300

design gives these products that X-factor that gamers would actually clamour for.

Logitech

This company has had a long history of making excellent PC peripherals and gaming devices and their mouse lineup doesn't disappoint. Featuring the G300,

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The Most User-Friendly Professional Monitors

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Ipod Mini

Apple has launched the long-rumoured iPad Mini, along with a brand new iMac and more affordable Retina-enabled Macbooks



Google sued

Google has been sued in Delaware, USA, for alleged infringement of a US Patent by its Google Wallet smartphone application

G400, G500 and G9x, all excellent mice and available in every price bracket.

These mice are well-built and though not in the same



Logitech G400

league as the offerings from Corsair, make quite a good case for themselves. We've had the G500 and G9x for over a year now and we've grown to really like them. The G9x can be considered, in some ways, as the ultimate gaming mouse, having every feature under the sun, including free-wheel and ratcheted mode for the scroll wheel and even interchangeable bodies. The price is a bit steep we feel, but acceptable considering the features on offer. The same goes for the G500 and while it doesn't have interchangeable bodies and is quite large, it is also very comfortable and was our favourite mouse till the M90 came along.

The G300 and G400 are excellent entry-level gaming mice and are good deals at the price. Nothing exciting to report here other than the fact that the G400 claims to be the new MX518 (a true classic) and the G300 looks a bit funky in our opinion. All the mice track well and are quite precise.

Verdict: These are all excellent deals at any budget and you really can't go wrong with any of these products. Highly recommended products.

KEYBOARDS

It is hard to sell a good keyboard to a gamer, for true gaming you really need a mechanical keyboard, or at least, that is what the gaming pundits claim. After trying out the handful of mechanical keyboards that we got, we still can't say for sure. Granted they're supposed to last much longer and yes, the Angry German kid would probably break his desk before he dented such a keyboard, but the high price doesn't justify the improvement in the feel unless you're a pro. In fact, the ₹275 worth Zebronic Judwaa keyboard that we received a year ago seemed as relevant as the Logitech G19 was at more than 40 times the price.

We will say that the feel of a mechanical keyboard is very different from that of a regular



Steelseries 7G

keyboard and that it does take some getting used to, especially for typing, where we found that we were, on average, 10 words per minute slower with mechanical keyboards than with regular keyboards. These keyboards are something of a niche product but we cannot definitively recommend them over a regular keyboard.

Mechanical keyboards are very nice to use however once you get the hang of them, and the almost pre-cognitive response of the keys (due to a shorter travel) is a pleasure to use after one gets used to it.

Things to look for on a keyboard are nKRO (for keyboard heavy games such as RPGs and MMOs; also known as n Key Roll Over, a game mode (not a requisite but nice to have) and the ability to program on the fly macros. Additional macro keys and profile modes are a bonus.

Steelseries

We received the 6Gv2 and 7G mechanical keyboards from Steelseries and they are good keyboards for sure. The 7G sets itself apart by offering an almost infinite KRO which is quite amazing considering that most keyboards offer something in the range of 5KRO. We don't really know how useful this is as pressing more than 5 keys simultaneously usually means you're bashing your head on the keyboard rather than consciously deciding to execute more than 5 different keystrokes at once. The keyboard also features USB ports and audio passthrough. A nice addition if you don't like clutter.

The 6Gv2 is the younger brother of the 7G and is identical except for missing USB ports, audio jacks and palm rest. Both the keyboards feature an unusually placed "Steelseries" key, which replaces the left Windows key on a regular keyboard. This can get quite frustrating during regular use, but is meant for gamers who do not want to inadvertently press the Windows key in the heat of the

battle. We would have preferred a game-mode switch though.

Verdict: Both are excellent keyboards and are essentially



CM Storm Trigger

identical. If you're willing to spend above ₹8,000 on just a keyboard, you can't really go wrong with these.

Cooler Master

More mechanical keyboards here, namely the QuickFire Pro, TK and Storm Trigger. The TK is a compact keyboard and feels a bit cramped for normal use. The insert, home, delete keys, etc. are gone and replaced by the NumPad and so are the arrow keys, which double-up as the bottom half of the NumPad when NumLock is on. The keyboard is quite tall and we would have liked a palm-rest to go with it. The PRO is the full-sized version of the TK with similar ergonomics. We noticed that the PRO has a toggle-able fn key which is a nice touch as many of the function keys double as media keys.

The Storm Trigger was the most comfortable keyboard we got and though the keys were supposedly identical to those on the PRO and TK (Cherry MX red), they did feel a bit soft. Also, this keyboard requires external power if you are thinking of utilizing the USB ports.

Verdict: As with the Steelseries, these are all good keyboards and we can't really decide between them. Though if we're pushed for a decision, we would say the Storm Trigger would be

Facebook Ads

Facebook Ads has finally started to see some action, with about 300,000 small businesses having tried the service so far



Nikon 1 V2

Nikon unveils its latest offering: a 14.2 megapixel ILC that can shoot 15 fps still shots. Expected in November

Company	Steelseries	Steelseries	Corsair	Logitech	Logitech	Cooler Master	Cooler Master	Cooler Master
Model	6GV2	7G Pro	K90	G510	G19	Quick Fire Pro	CM Storm Quick Fire TK	CM Storm Trigger
Price (in ₹)	8,599	9,999	7,280	6,395	12,995	5,500	6,999	7,999
Features								
Braided cable (Y/N)	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y
Audio pass through	N	Y	N	Y	Y	N	N	N
USB slots	N	2	1	1	2	N	N	2
Mechanical (Y/N/Type)	Black	Black	Red	N	N	Red	Red	Red
nKRO	6	Infinite	20	NA	5	6	6	6
Macro keys (Y/N/No.)	N	N	18	18	12	N	N	5
Game mode	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Backlit	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Palm Rest	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y
Misc	NA	NA	36KB Memory	Monochrome LCD	Colour LCD	NA	Shortened keyboard	64KB Memory

a slightly better buy. They're all cheaper than the Steelseries duo and might be better deals because of that.

Logitech

Logitech sent us the G19 and G510 keyboards. These are not mechanical keyboards, but stand out from the crowd by including a monochrome LCD on the G510 and a colour LCD on the G19. Other than not being mechanical keyboards, these two come with everything that you would need, including extra macro keys with three possible profiles, LCDs which are linked to certain games, a game-mode switch and even USB and audio passthrough. The LCD on the G510 has limited func-

tionality and feels like nothing more than a gimmick and the colour LCD on the G19, while more functional, feels like even more of a gimmick. Yes you can watch YouTube videos or browse



Logitech G19

through photos or even maybe see a map from a game on that teensy-weensy display, but why would you want to when all you have to do is look a few inches higher-up and see the same thing on a full-sized display? Would you really be willing to

spend ₹13,000 on a 2.5-inch LCD because it's cool?

Verdict: Gimmicky LCDs don't make a good keyboard and while these are excellent keyboards (non-mechanical) and have plenty of great features, paying for those almost useless LCDs doesn't seem right. To be avoided unless you have money to waste.

Corsair

Corsair only had the K90 to offer us but it is sufficient to give all the keyboards here a run for their money. This was the only mechanical keyboard with dedicated macro keys and given the price, is quite a good deal. The design follows the same brushed pattern as their mice, with plenty of brushed aluminium on display and the keyboard does look nice and a defi-

nite departure from the regular designs. Of all the bunch, this is a good keyboard to use as far as mechanical keyboards go, but the unusual decision to shrink the left shift key to a fraction of its original size and move the "\ key into the extra space offered left us bewildered and a little frustrated. The "@" and "" keys were also switched on the keyboard but thankfully, the change was not detected by the default layout on the PC. Other than these minor issues we were quite satisfied with this keyboard.

Verdict: This is the most feature-rich mechanical keyboard we received and choosing between the CM Storm Trigger and this is a really tough decision. Both are capable keyboards but we feel that the K90 sneaks ahead with its extra macro keys and lower price tag. **[1]**

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Analogue Era Ends

The UK has officially finished its switchover from analogue to digital-terrestrial TV broadcasts, marking the end of an era



ASUS Zenbook

ASUS has expanded its Zenbook line of Ultrabooks, unveiling two new 14-inch and 15-inch models



The Ivy League Of Ultrabooks



The second generation of ultrabooks is here, and the gulf between portability and power has now been bridged!

Vishal Mathur
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We have 14 of the latest ultrabooks pitted against each other, comparing only those that have Intel Ivy Bridge processors. All major manufacturers are participating in this test with their latest ultrabooks. Further, we divided the ultrabooks into smaller categories according to price bands, to make your buying choice simpler.

BUILD, DESIGN & USABILITY

Let us start with the least expensive ultrabook in this test – the Dell Inspiron 14z. Its lid has the dual tone grey and silver finish. Open it up and the dark grey brushed metal tone continues

around the keyboard. The bezel has a similar finish, but in plain matte. Connectivity ports on its left edge have classy covers that hide the ports well. On the right side is the optical drive, this is one of the few ultrabooks that actually offer this, apart from other I/O ports. Despite hailing from the Inspiron series, the classy design and good build quality doesn't betray the lower price tag of the Inspiron 14z. Its keyboard is well spaced out, but when typing briskly, you will see a bit of downward flex towards the middle of the keyboard. Apart from that, the key size, travel and response is very satisfactory. Although good, its touchpad is not the best in terms of response, though.

The Sony Vaio T11 has a rather unique visual appeal. Its small form factor (11.6-inch

is dressed well in the non-shiny brushed metal finish. When you open the display, the lid pushes down on the back of the laptop, raising it up a bit, and the slight elevation at the back is helpful while typing. Despite the lesser area, the T11's keyboard is nicely spaced out and the key size isn't any smaller. However, the typing experience isn't the best, because of the lesser key travel.

The Acer Timeline Ultra M5 has a basic look. The grey brushed finish is the same on the lid and the frame around the keyboard. It is a bit thicker than most ultrabooks, due to the optical drive. You have to reach behind the display to get to the USB, Ethernet and HDMI. Its keyboard is comfortable to use, with good key placement and adequate travel. Its overall build quality is good, there's no flex.

For the Toshiba Satellite U840, it is a case of two halves – good and bad. Its lid and the palm-rest area has some flex, but it looks good, thanks to the premium brushed metal finish. The keyboard sports flatter keys, with less than perfect key travel. It takes time getting used to that, and also the slightly smaller key dimensions. There is adequate gap between the keys, and the touchpad response is among the better ones. However, a little more effort on Toshiba's part could have ensured a premium finish for the U840.

If you are willing to spend ₹60k on an ultrabook, there is none built better than the HP Envy 4-1002tx. A generous amount of aluminum is used on the HP Envy 4, which makes it look more expensive than it actually is. Its colour combina-

Apple iPad exchange

Some Apple stores are exchanging old iPads for the new 4th Generation ones, if bought in the last 30 days



Sony Xperia gets Jelly Bean

Rumours say the 2012 range of Sony Xperia devices are likely to receive an update to the Jelly Bean OS soon

Ultrabooks Test

HOW WE TESTED

Not just for this comparison test alone, but this is how we generally test laptops for reviews conducted throughout the year in the magazine and online on the website.

Prepping

We never benchmark a laptop's performance with the way the OS and the software is, out of the box. We uninstall bloatware, download and install the latest drivers via Windows Update or the manufacturer website. We do this to ensure none of the pre-bundled software or their corresponding services has any effect on the laptop's performance score. After this step, we're ready to benchmark the laptops.

Benchmarking

We run a range of industry standard software benchmarks to measure a laptop's hardware capability and overall performance – PC Mark Vantage, 3D Mark and CineBench, to name

a few. We have added a series of tests to measure display quality too. We also measure performance with a bunch of subjective tests consistent across all laptops -- for e.g., watching a movie at fixed volume and screen brightness to drain out a laptop's battery, running graphics benchmarks to ascertain a laptop's GPU capabilities, and more.

Feature listing

Here we take a look at all the features offered by a laptop, be it the range of connectivity options it provides, ports that it is supposed to have or the operating system it actually comes bundled with, and scrutinize it for anything it promises to deliver but doesn't. To put it more plainly, if a laptop claims it comes with 6 GB of RAM, we check whether it actually has 6 GB of RAM or not. We do this for all the laptops, against almost all the parameters that affect one's buying decision.

Ergonomics

While look and feel can be a matter of personal preference to some extent, determining the best ergonomic design is a matter of scientific principles. In determining the Design & Usability score for every laptop, we take into account several factors like build quality, materials used, quality and placement of hinges, keyboard usage quality and feel as well as the comfort, palmrest real estate, touchpad response quality, etc., and break it down exhaustively to arrive at a cumulative score for ergonomics, design and general usability aspects of the laptop. What we also have to critically check for is the quality of the display. More points for the ones that aren't reflective and have better viewing angles.

After going through this process for each and every laptop, we arrive at a final score based on a formula with assigned weighted scores for performance, design, and features.

tion, with the black/dark grey on the lid and the keyboard deck, and the crimson red base, looks rather unique. The brushed metal finish on its lid and the palmrest area attracts fingerprints, surprisingly. It's very well built, there is no flex anywhere on the chassis. Its keyboard with island-styled keys is extremely comfortable to type on and their response is consistent. The HP Envy 4's touchpad has a brushed metal imprint, and has a thin trench dug all around it, giving it some elevation. This is by far the best built ultrabook in the price bracket.

The two Lenovo IdeaPad ultrabooks look exactly the

same, and hence we will talk about them together. The IdeaPad U410 looks very similar to a MacBook Pro 13, albeit the U410's 14-inch display. The gun-metal colour on its lid and keyboard deck contrasts well with the chrome frame along the sides. The U410's design is uniformly thick. Its display hinge is the most solid across all ultrabooks, it doesn't vibrate or move around when subjected to sudden jerks. Open the lid and you get the well spaced out keyboard that is very easy to get accustomed to. Among all ultrabooks in this category, this keyboard has the best feel and user experience,

slightly ahead of the Envy 4. The layout is just perfect, and has adequate amount to travel to make this universally acceptable. The U410 isn't the thinnest,



Dell Inspiron 14z Ultrabook

but it retains the practicality of a great keyboard, which a blade thin ultrabook mostly doesn't.

Samsung has carried forward the same design from its previous generation Series 5 ultrabooks to the Ivy Bridge series. Its design is functional, but you do feel some flex at certain parts on the chassis, due to the thinner materials used. This is one of the reasons why the HP Envy, the Lenovo IdeaPad U410 and even the Toshiba Satellite U840w score a lot better in terms of build quality than the Samsung Series 5. Brushed metal finish seems to be common across a majority of ultrabooks, but this one is slightly shinier than most. Open it up and the keyboard deck is fairly uncluttered.



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Apple wins new patents

Apple won 34 new patent claims, including ones for Apple TV, 3D apps on the iPhone, and videoconferencing

OLED TVs delayed

Manufacturing issues have caused delays, leading Samsung and LG to postpone the launches of their next-gen OLED TVs to 2013

The keyboard is comfortable to use, although it has a slightly spongy feel. Critically, key size is perfect, and that can compensate for the lack of chunky feel from the keys. Despite the optical drive on one side, all connectivity ports are accommodated on its side, rather than on the backside of its spine.

If you want your ultrabook to stand out in a crowd, then look no further than the Toshiba Satellite U840w. While traditional laptop displays are now 16:9, this one has a wider aspect ratio of 21:9. The lid has a two toned brushed dark gold and black finish with an imprint design. Open it up and the same tone extends onto the keyboard deck as well. Apart from the wider form factor, the element that catches your attention is the placement of the speakers on the left and the right side of the keyboard – the extra space is used well. The palmrest area is lesser in terms of depth, and if you do a lot of typing, then this won't help. However, this ultrabook works well for multimedia

put together. Keyboard is slightly more spaced out than on most ultrabooks, which is nice.

The Acer's Aspire S3 looks and feels less expensive than it actually is, unfortunately. This feeling has been amplified by the better built alternatives available with more affordable price tags. There is no taking away the fact that it looks very sophisticated, but it doesn't have the visual pull you expect from a device that you have paid so much for. Its minimalistic design works well with the slightly unique colour - mixture of grey, gold and light brown. Its brushed metal finish was unique at launch, but it's very common with ultrabooks now. However, there is no denying the fact that the Aspire S3 is very slim, more towards the front than the back. It's very solidly built and the chassis doesn't flex at any point. Despite being very slim, its key travel and feel hasn't been sacrificed. A



HP Envy 4 Ultrabook

with the red on its lid. Its magnesium build has absolutely no rough edges or flex and it is without doubt one of the smartest looking ultrabooks in the market. But its keypad is a disappointment. The keys are slightly thinner horizontally than the standard size across ultrabooks, and the travel is just not adequate. To top it off, we did not like the spongy feel offered while typing. The Enter key is redesigned, and that bigger size takes time getting used to. This ultrabook has the thinnest frame around the display, very similar to the Samsung Series 9.

The Dell XPS 14 builds on the brilliance of the XPS 13, with a design that stands out. The device's minimalistic looks and premium feel is unique. There are three materials used on its chassis – aluminum, magnesium and silicon. The lid is made of aluminum and the keyboard deck has magnesium with a soft feel finish. Flip the XPS 14 over and its bottom has a layer of silicon that prevents heat from reaching your skin when using it on the lap. Generous cooling vents is something we had appreciated in the XPS 13, and that has been carried forward here as well. This ultrabook isn't as thin as you would expect, and the dimensions have more in common with a MacBook Pro than a MacBook Air, but it attracts a lot of attention.

The 14-inch display has a 1600 x 900 pixel resolution but the advantages of that are somewhat lost by its reflective nature.

The Samsung Series 9 at its thickest point is 12.9mm, while the MacBook Air tips 17.2mm at its thickest point. But the slimmer profile of the ultrabook didn't stop Samsung from fitting an

assortment of I/O ports on its side. The chassis is claimed to be 100 per cent aluminum, and looking at the overall package, we think that claim is well justified. Materials used are premium, and critically, the display hinge tautness is among the best, if not the very best. Its mineral ash black colour is rather rare. The overall design of the Samsung Series 9 is very good. Open it up and you will notice the slim bezel. The keyboard layout hasn't been compromised in any way, keyboard responds accurately and precisely, like a well oiled engine. The ultrabook's key travel and typing experience is unaffected by its slimmer profile. It is the built ultrabook in the comparison test.

FEATURES, SPECS & PERFORMANCE

Category 1: The common processor across this category is the Core i5-3317U processor. There is 4GB of RAM to help the performance. Among this category, the Inspiron 14z is behind the Acer Timeline Ultra M5 in terms of system performance, and pretty much at par with the Toshiba Satellite U840 and the Sony Vaio T11. However, this is the only ultrabook to offer dedicated graphics. The AMD Radeon 7570M (1GB) shows fairly good mid-range performance. Tested battery



Dell XPS 14 Ultrabook

viewing. Although it can't be slipped in a bag easily, it's well built, with no flex on the chassis. The finish on the ASUS S56CA's lid and keyboard deck isn't as dark as the Samsung Series 5 or the Toshiba Satellite U840. The S56CA's bezel is slightly thicker, housing its 15.6-inch display. Despite being big, it remains very slim and still packs in an optical drive. Materials used are fairly good quality and feel well

bigger than expected touchpad area is another strong point.

The Fujitsu Lifebook U772 sincerely surprised us with its good build quality and the overall premium feel. This is an ultrabook aimed at the demographic that traditionally buy a business laptop - the likes of the Lenovo ThinkPad, HP ProBook or the Dell Vostro. The U772's matte black finish on the rest of the chassis combines well



Sleeping Dogs DLCs

Square Enix announced two new DLCs for their hit sandbox game Sleeping Dogs - SWAT Pack and Screen Legends Pack

Nintendo slashes forecast

Nintendo slashed its full-year net profit forecast by 70 percent, acknowledging poor sales of the 3DS handheld console

Ultrabooks Test

life is 149 minutes, which is just about acceptable. Display quality is a tad disappointing on the Dell ultrabook, with decent black levels somewhat compensating for disappointing white levels and pixel stability.

The Vaio T11 will not disappoint in terms of performance, and the powerful package can take as much multi-tasking load on the Core i5 as any other more expensive ultrabook. Its battery life is good at 160 minutes. We aren't sure how many people would be comfortable with its small-ish display and overall profile.

The Toshiba Satellite U840's strong point is its excellent system performance. It is a very close race between this and the Acer Timeline M5, with both trading the lead in benchmark scores regularly. Tested battery life is slightly better on the Timeline M5 clocking 197 minutes, while the the Satellite U840 lasted 185 minutes. Any one of the Toshiba Satellite U840 and the Acer Timeline M5 could have easily picked up the best value award in this category had they been priced as sensibly as the Dell Inspiron 14z. The Inspiron 14z took the lead in the final performance scores because of its GPU.



Samsung Series 5 Ultrabook

Category 2: The HP Envy 4 is the best performer within this category, by far. Despite the same Core i5 processor that powers most rivals, it performs drastically better. Its Radeon HD7670M graphics also emerged the best, and its battery life of 223 minutes is pipped only by the 229 minutes scored by the Samsung Series 5.

Speaking of which, the Series 5 has extra help with 6GB of RAM as against the 4GB that the HP Envy comes with. Which is why we were a tad surprised at Samsung's lower scores. The Nvidia GT620M is also scoring a notch lower than the 7670M, and that completed the tilt in the Envy's favour. The Series 5's display has the best black levels, but somewhat disappointing white

saturation. By the way, the flash storage for caching is 24GB on the Series 5, but 32GB on the Envy 4. The Lenovo IdeaPad U410 came with two different versions - one with a Core i5 processor and one with a Core i7. We were pleasantly surprised to find that the Core i5 version scores better in PC Mark Vantage and PC Mark 07 than the Core i7 one!

Not surprisingly, the Core i5 version scores better in terms of battery life - 209 minutes compared to 193 minutes for the Core i7. Where the Lenovo IdeaPad U410s claw back some disadvantage over their rivals is



Samsung Series 9 Ultrabook

with the excellent display quality, and they score the highest across the category in terms of display quality, with only the

Series 5 scoring more for Black levels. Both are recommended for anyone picky about display quality. The Acer Aspire S3 was a very good ultrabook when it was launched, but its price hasn't seen any revision, and rivals are now offering more powerful packages at lower prices, with the Envy, Series 5 and the IdeaPad U410. While it is technically powered by a Core i7 processor, it's fairly toned down - the Core i5-3317U consistently beats it across all tests. And that spoils the Aspire S3's chances from the outset. Battery life of 153 minutes is the lowest in this category, with the Toshiba Satellite U840w saving its skin by only 3 more minutes! Acer needs to slash prices to enhance value. The Toshiba Satellite U840w. has a unique 21:9 aspect ratio. The system performance is quite good, but the real kicker is the display quality. This display does very well in all aspects - black levels, white saturation and pixel stability. The performance is fairly standard, but this ultrabook is more geared towards entertainment use than anything else. The ASUS S56CA we received is powered by a Core i7 processor, that has not been launched in the Indian market yet. That is expected to change very soon. No official prices at the moment, but



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	Category 1 - ₹40,000 to ₹54,999				Category 2 - ₹55,000 to ₹69,999			
	Dell	Sony	Acer	Toshiba	HP	Lenovo	Samsung	Toshiba
	Inspiron 14z	Vaio T-11 (SVT11113FGS)	Timeline Ultra M5 - 481T	Satellite U840	ENVY 4-1002TX	IdeaPad U410 (59-342-778)	Series 5 (NP-530U4C)	Satellite U840w
MRP (₹)	45,990	49,990	52,000	53,500	57,990	58,990	62,990	63,500
Market Price	43,000	49,000	50,460	53,500	56,000	53,000	57,000	63,500
Test Scores								
Performance	17.81	16.34	18.06	16.49	22.53	18.69	21.74	17.49
Features	18.21	13.57	14.80	13.27	16.86	17.11	17.55	14.91
Design	17.76	18.24	20.16	18.84	21.36	20.76	20.28	21.96
Final Score	53.77	48.15	53.02	48.59	60.76	56.57	59.58	54.36
Specifications								
CPU	Intel Core i5 - 3317U	Intel Core i5 - 3317U	Intel Core i5 - 3317U	Intel Core i5 - 3317U	Intel Core i5 - 3317U	Intel Core i5 - 3317U	Intel Core i5 - 3317U	Intel Core i5 - 3317U
Cores	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Clock Speed	1700	1700	1700	1700	1700	1700	1700	1700
RAM (GB)	4	4	4	4	4	4	6	4
GPU	AMD Radeon HD 7570M / Intel HD 4000	Intel HD 4000	Intel HD 4000	Intel HD 4000	AMD Radeon HD 7670M / Intel HD 4000	Nvidia GT610M / Intel HD 4000	Nvidia GeForce GT 620M / Intel HD 4000	Intel HD 4000
Discrete GPU memory	1 GB	0	0	0	2 GB	1 GB	1 GB	0
Storage Type	HDD	HDD	HDD	HDD	HDD	HDD	HDD	HDD
SSD/HDD Size (GB)	500	500	500	500	500	500	1024	500
Flash Storage (GB)	32	32	24	32	32	24	24	32
Display Size (in inches)	14	11.6	14	14	14	14	14	14.4
Display Resolution	1366 x 768	1366 x 768	1366 x 768	1366 x 768	1366 x 768	1366 x 768	1366 x 768	1792 x 768
No of Ports (USB/Firewire)	2	2	2	3	3	3	3	3
No of USB 3.0	2	1	2	1	2	2	2	2
Connectivity (LAN / Bluetooth / Wi-Fi)	Y/Y/Y	Y/Y/Y	Y/Y/Y	Y/Y/Y	Y/Y/Y	Y/Y/Y	Y/Y/Y	Y/Y/Y
Optical Drive (Y/N)	Y	N	Y	N	N	N	Y	N
Weight (kg)	1.8	1.4	2.3	1.67	1.75	1.7	1.8	1.68
Benchmark / Test Scores								
Battery Life (in minutes)	149	160	197	185	223	209	229	156
Display - Black Level	15	16	15	15	17	17	19	20
Display - White Saturation	5	6	8	5	8	10	6	6
Display - Stability	5	9	10	10	10	11	10	9
CineBench CPU	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.39	2.4	2.35	2.4
Cinebench OpenGL (FPS)	24.39	10.85	13.91	12.92	33.78	16.02	25.01	14.5
3D Mark 11 - Performance	940	532	0	0	1155	656	1021	0
PC Mark 07	2966	3469	3636	4220	3150	3043	2371	3833
PC Mark - drive test	18527	16181	25949	12761	17205	17422	28342	16655

we would expect this machine to be priced between ₹60k to ₹65k, at the most. At that price, the kind of performance that we saw from the S56CA is acceptable. It has a fairly powerful spec sheet - Core i7 processor and Nvidia GT635M (2GB) graphics. We are a bit surprised to see that the GeForce GT630M (1GB) on the Dell XPS 14 is scoring better across the tests than this one. The performance of the GT635M on the S56CA is similar to the Radeon 7570M that the Inspiron 14z and the GeForce

GT620M the Samsung Series 5 comes with. The ASUS ultrabook has very good battery life, clocking 221 minutes. This is the one to consider if you prefer the big display, and an optical drive is also important for you.

Category 3: This is the high-end section of the test. The Fujitsu Lifebook U772 is the only ultrabook in the test to be powered by the Core i5-3427U processor clocking at 1.8GHz. Targetted at businesses, this one has hard

drive protection sensors, anti-theft protection, fingerprint security and the Intel vPro features that include identity and data security, hardware virtualization and remote repair. Its performance is quite good, but the lack of dedicated graphics (expected!) hurts it in comparison with the Dell XPS 14. Its 128GBSSD scored the highest in terms of drive performance. Its battery life was 158 minutes which is much lesser than the XPS 14 and the Series 9. Display quality is overall better

than the XPS 14, which loses out points for being reflective, and also because the U772 handles sharpness, black levels and pixel stability better. The Dell XPS 14 has good system performance, with only two ultrabooks surpassing it across the board - the HP Envy 4 and the Samsung Series 9. In this category, the XPS 14 is the only ultrabook that comes with the option of a dedicated graphics chip - the GeForce GT630M (1GB), and its performance is excellent. It is neck and

Category 3 - ₹70,000 and above						Misc.
Lenovo	Acer	Fujitsu	Dell	Samsung	Asus	
IdeaPad U410 (59-342-788)	Aspire S3-391	Lifebook U772 Red	XPS 14	Series 9 (NP-900X3C)	S56CA	
63,990	66,949	75,900	85,990	1,02,990	To be launched	
60,000	69,000	75,900	85,990	1,02,990	To be launched	
17.70	14.68	18.05	21.85	23.68	19.09	
17.78	13.41	15.56	17.11	15.53	18.52	
20.76	18.96	19.80	23.76	24.60	20.52	
56.24	47.05	53.41	62.73	63.82	58.13	
Intel Core i7 - 3517U	Intel Core i7 - 3517U	Intel Core i5 - 3427U	Intel Core i5 - 3317U	Intel Core i7 - 3517U	Intel Core i7 - 3517U	
2	2	2	2	2	2	
1900	1900	1800	1700	1900	1900	
4	4	4	4	4	4	
Nvidia GeForce GT610M / Intel HD4000	Intel HD 4000	Intel HD 4000	Nvidia GeForce GT 630M / Intel HD 4000	Intel HD 4000	Nvidia GeForce GT635M / Intel HD 4000	
1 GB	0	0	1 GB	0	2 GB	
HDD	HDD	SSD	HDD	SSD	HDD	
500	500	128	500	256	500	
24	24	0	32	0	24	
14	13.3	14	14	13.3	15.6	
1366 x 768	1366 x 768	1366 x 768	1600 x 900	1600 x 900	1366 x 768	
4	2	3	2	2	3	
2	2	2	2	1	2	
Y / Y / Y	Y / Y / Y	N / Y / Y	Y / Y / Y	Optional / Y / Y	Y / Y / Y	
N	N	N	N	N	Y	
1.7	1.35	1.4	2.1	1.16	2.3	
193	153	158	210	246	221	
17	15	14	13	16	17	
10	5	8	7	6	10	
11	9	11	10	10	10	
2.79	2.79	2.6	2.38	2.8	2.79	
16.05	12.56	12.9	30.26	16.39	25.23	
656	0	0	1141	0	1083	
2037	2383	4221	3159	4647	2176	
13600	3314	42453	16927	41503	3851	

neck with the AMD Radeon HD7670M (2GB) of the Envy 4. Its battery lasted 210 minutes, expect it to last even longer in real-world usage. Do remember that the XPS 14 range starts at around ₹79,000, for the version with no dedicated GPU. As far as the Samsung Series 9 goes, it does look really admirable. Stop admiring the gorgeous looks for a second, switch it on and the goodness continues. Its PC Mark 07 scores are the highest across board, and its tested battery life of 246 minutes

is also the highest among this bunch of ultrabooks. The 256GB SSD on the Series 9 is extremely fast, and is pipped only just by the 128GB SSD on the Fujitsu Lifebook. That really helps with the system performance. The display has a resolution of 1600 x 900 pixels, but unlike the Dell XPS 14, this one is not reflective. The cherry on the cake is the brightness level, which is consistently higher than the XPS 14's display at similar brightness settings. The only thing missing from this

package is a dedicated graphics chip, and that would probably round off an unbeatable package.

THE WINNERS

Best Performer: Samsung Series 9

Among all ultrabooks, the Samsung Series 9 has the best performance, the maximum battery life and very good, rugged build quality. Of course, all that comes at a price, but even though this ultrabook is mighty expensive, this is the one to buy if you

are searching for the best performing ultrabook in the market.

Best Buy (Category 1 - ₹40,000 to ₹54,999)

Dell Inspiron 14z: This is the most in-expensive ultrabook in this test, and the stable performance and good build quality sweetens the deal even more at this price. Perfect machine to introduce you to the world of ultrabooks.

Best Buy (Category 2 - ₹55,000 to ₹69,999)

HP Envy 4: The performance of the Envy 4 is so good that it is actually in a solid second place overall in terms of performance. It's priced attractively as well, compared to the Samsung Series 9. Brilliantly built as well, feeling more expensive than it actually is. Recommended for anyone who wants a very powerful ultrabook under ₹60,000.

Best Value (Category 3 - ₹70,000 and above)

Dell XPS 14: The XPS 14 really made the ultrabook fashionable, with the use of exotic materials that add to the solidity and the premium feel of the package. Performance is excellent, but more than that, it is equally capable as a road-warrior and as a light entertainment/gaming laptop for home.

Editor's Pick

Samsung Series 5: This is a very capable alternative to the HP Envy 4. Out of the box, you get 6GB of RAM (as against the popular 4GB trend), a 1TB hard drive (as against the popular 500GB trend) and an optical drive. Build quality isn't as great as the HP Envy 4's or even the Lenovo IdeaPad U410's, but performance more than makes up for it. In terms of its configuration, it offers a unique mix not found in any other ultrabook out there.

Bazaar

THE LATEST PRODUCTS
REVIEWED FOR YOU

The Digit Test Centre receives hundreds of products every month. Each of these products is put through a series of tests and is finally given a score. 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

- 
Extremely poor product.
Keep away!
- 
Strictly OK.
Not recommended
- 
Decent product.
Go for it, but there may be better products out there.
- 
Very good product.
Highly recommended.
- 
Ground-breaking product.
We've never seen anything like it before.
A definite must buy!

▶ Page 91
Samsung Galaxy Note II



▶ Page 91
Lenovo
IdeaPad
Y580



▼ Page 94
Alienware X51



▶ Page 93
Sony Xperia Tipo



▲ Page 95
Western Digital My
Net N900



▲ Page 96
ASUS Platinum
HD 7970



PLUS

- 88 | iBall Andi 5c
- 88 | Creative Inspire S2
- 89 | AMD A10-5800K
- 89 | Gigabyte GA F2A85X-UP4
- 90 | MapMyIndia CarPad 5 navigator
- 90 | Kaspersky Internet Security
- 92 | AVG Internet Security 2013
- 93 | Dell Latitude E6430
- 94 | Antec P280
- 95 | HP OfficeJet Pro 8600 Plus
- 96 | Edimax IC-3015Wn
- 97 | F&D W330BT

& MORE...





Viper SmartStart app

Viper's SmartStart 3.0 app lets iPhone users use Siri to perform many remote functions on their car, including starting it

Google to combine Ads?

Google CEO Larry Page suggested that the company might combine its Mobile and Desktop Ads to offer users greater seamless experience

Bazaar

Corsair Neutron GTX SSD 240GB and Corsair Neutron 240GB SSD

A best performer in our midst

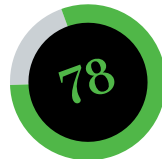
Corsair has been coming out regularly with SSDs across all categories. We had found the Force GS series to be a fabulously performing drive thanks to the Toggle-mode NAND flash memory being used. With the Neutron series, Corsair is moving on from the SandForce controller that was seen in its other series of drives, to use a new controller from Link-A-Media - the LM87800. It features an eBoost technology which claims to improve the NAND chip lifespan.

The difference between the Neutron GTX and Neutron series of drives is the type of NAND memory being used. The more expensive Neutron GTX houses 8 Toshiba Toggle-mode NAND chips with a 32 GB capacity per chip whereas the Neutron drive has 16 Micron synchronous NAND chips each with a capacity of 16 GB. While the Neutron GTX drive has chips on only one side of the PCB, the Neutron drive has eight chips on either side. Apart from the memory, the PCB has the LM87800 controller alongwith its DRAM controller.

Test Setup

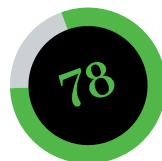
- Processor: Intel Core i7-3770K @ 3.5 GHz
- Motherboard: ASRock Z77 Extreme4
- Graphics Card: AMD HD 6850
- RAM: 2 x 4 GB Kingston HyperX RAM @ 1333MHz
- Monitor: BenQ EW2430

Starting things off with the ATTO benchmark which measures transfers across a specific volume length. We kept the test parameters at default from 0.5 KB to 8192 KB with the total length being 256MB. We noticed that the read speeds were quite good with both the drives giving a speed of 555 MB/s. The write speeds were better in the Neutron GTX drive, which gave 511 MB/s, whereas the Neutron drive maxed out at 370 MB/s. These speeds were completely in sync with what was advertised on the cover. Moving onto the Crystal Disk Mark 3.0 testing, we found that the 32-thread 4k read/write performance which corresponds to numerous small file transfers was almost identical on both the



Corsair Neutron GTX 240 GB

Features	80
Performance.....	85
Build Quality	80
Value for money.....	65



Corsair Neutron 240 GB

Features	80
Performance.....	75
Build Quality	80
Value for money.....	70

Specifications

Corsair Neutron GTX 240GB
Unformatted Capacity: 223.57 GB; **Interface:** SATA 3;
Controller: LAMD LM87800;
Memory: 8x 32GB Toshiba

Corsair Neutron 240 GB
Unformatted Capacity: 223.57 GB; **Interface:** SATA 3;
Controller: LAMD LM87800;
Memory: 16x 16GB Micron

Contact

Email: indiaservice@corsair.com
Website: www.corsair.com

drives: 357MB/s read and 339 MB/s write which was quite good. Random 512k read speeds were lower than the Corsair Force GS series drive but the random 512k write speeds were better with the Neutron GTX giving 448 MB/s which is much better than 291 MB/s offered by the Force GS series SSD. That's because the LM87800 controller does not employ real-life compression while writing data as is done by the SandForce controller based drives. When it comes to sequential read speeds, the Force GS drive performed better.

In the AS SSD benchmark, the overall score of both the Neutron drives is really good at 1000 plus as compared to 657 of the Force GS series drive, as well as the Intel Series 520 drive which put up a score of 771. Apart from write operations, both drives perform within the margin of error.

Corsair Neutron GTX 240GB SSD has been the best SSD we have tested so far. It wins the Best Performer tag from the Intel Series 520 SSD for its great overall performance. The Corsair Neutron 240 GB offers good performance, taking a hit only with write operations. But when you compare the write speeds on the Neutron with other SSDs that we tested, they were pretty impressive.

The Neutron GTX costs ₹18,200 and the Neutron costs ₹15,300. The Neutron GTX offers a decent performance jump over the Neutron series when it comes to write speeds, but is below Force GS when it comes to sequential operations. So, users who do not want to spend a ₹2,800 premium on the GTX series drive can opt for the Neutron drive, which is still better value for money than the Neutron GTX as well as the Force GS drive. A 5-year warranty on both drives is a surefire plus.

Nimish Sawant

Xbox Smartglass launch

Microsoft launched the free Smartglass app for the Xbox 360, letting tablets and smartphones turn into content controllers for the console

HTC Release Dates confirmed

HTC's One X+, 8X and 8S have finally had their launch dates confirmed, and are expected by November 2nd

iBall Andi 5c

A budget 5-inch Android ICS phone

This 5-inch phone is powered by a 1 GHz Cortex A9 single-core processor and has an IPS panel with a highly reflective screen. It can take in two SIM cards (2 x GSM or 1 GSM + 1 WCDMA). The textured finish on the rear side gives it a very good grip but it is quite heavier than the Samsung Galaxy Note.

You will get a stock Android ICS with no customisations, which is a big plus. The onboard keypad wasn't that great. One hand typing is slow and will lead to thumb-ache. Typing in the landscape mode is quick. Call quality was quite good except in Zone 3 where you have just one bar on the signal. It beat Karbonn A18 and Spice Stellar MI 425 in most of the benchmarks. The IPS panel's backlight

Price
₹12,999



bleeding is very prominent along the edges if you view the screen at eye-level. Visibility in sunlight is horrible. It sports a 5 MP rear-camera and a VGA front-camera. The camera tends to take quite a while to focus and it gets worse in low lit conditions. The images taken outdoors were actually pretty decent for this category of phone. Yes, the dynamic range isn't great and you will see pixellation when you transfer images to your PC. The outdoor images look great on the phone screen and you shouldn't expect anything more from this phone. Video quality is not at all good.

The 2300mAh battery lasts for a decent 8 hours on regular usage which includes calling, messaging, a bit of gaming, watching movies and surfing the web.

At a maximum retail price of ₹12,999 but an MOP of ₹11,000, the Andi 5c is still expensive. But under ₹10,000 this can make for a great buy for someone looking at a budget large-screen phone. Prospective buyers, wait for more budget 5-inch smartphones to launch.

Nimish Sawant

Creative Inspire S2 Wireless 2.1

Decent but expensive

Price:
₹4,990



The S2 can wirelessly play music by pairing with any A2DP compatible device. Performance wise the S2 is no big deal. You'll get the same signature bass heavy sound that Creative is known for in their lower end Inspire series. However, bluetooth pairing was a breeze with the controls within reach. The bundled D1 transmitter with its Apt-X codec support ensures higher fidelity over the air. The speaker set is certainly expensive. Go for it if pairing wirelessly is a must and space is a concern. The compact footprint makes this set an ideal companion for a laptop.

60

Features70
Performance.....60
Build Quality60
Value for money.....50

Specifications

Frequency response: 40Hz - 20 KHz; S/N Ratio: >= 75dB; Output power: 26 W

Contact

Raman Chawla
Email: indiagetcreativek@ctl.creative.com
Phone: 9224400610
Website: <http://in.creative.com/>

Amkette Smart Bluetooth keyboard

A handy dedicated keyboard for your tablet

Price:
₹2,795



Setting it up on an iPad and an Android tablet is simple. Once paired, you get this additional on-screen keyboard, which also remains active. There are dedicated keys for the Android and iOS ecosystem, like Search and Home. There is literally no spacing between the keys, which takes time getting used to. However, its typing experience is good, and build quality is great. Keys have a chunky feel, travel is adequate and the key-size is perfect. Lack of palmrest means you can't type for long without feeling stressed. It's priced very well.

70

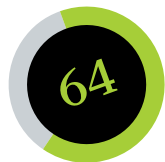
Features60
Ergonomics65
Build Quality80
Value for money.....75

Specifications

Connectivity type: Bluetooth 2.0; Compatibility: iOS 4 and above, Android 3.0 and above, Windows XP/Vista/7, Mac OS Snow Leopard and above; Battery: 2 AAA alkaline

Contact

Amkette India
Email: info@amkette.com
Website: www.amkette.com



Features70
Performance.....60
Build Quality60
Value for money.....65

Specifications

Operating System: Android 4.0.3;
Screen size: 5-inch WVGA at 480x800 pixel; Internal Storage: 4 GB (2 GB for data); RAM: 512 MB;
Camera (rear / front) in MP: 5 / 0.3;
Connectivity: 3G, EDGE, GPRS, Wi-Fi 802.11 b/g/n, Bluetooth with A2DP;
Dual-SIM: Yes; Battery: 2300mAh

Contact

iBall
Website: www.iballmobiles.co.in
Email: sales@iball.co.in
Phone: 1800 300 42255

EU accuses Microsoft

The European Union has formally accused Microsoft of failing to provide alternate browser choices to customers, despite a previous order



Samsung Ativ Smart PC

Samsung unveiled the latest models of its Ativ computers' range of Smart PCs, that run on the Windows 8 platform

Bazaar

AMD A10-5800K

The Trinity APU that is much better than discrete entry level GPUs



Features 70
Performance..... 75
Build Quality NA
Value for money..... 70

Specifications

Base Clock: 3.8 GHz; **Turbo Clock:** 4.2 GHz; **L2 cache:** 4 MB; **Integrated Graphics:** Radeon HD 7660D; **GPU clock:** 800 MHz; **Radeon Cores:** 384

Contact

AMD India
Email: fusion.india@amd.com
Website: www.amd.com

AMD had us all impressed with the graphics performance of their Fusion series Llano APU - AMD A8-3850 last year. Carrying that tradition forward, AMD's latest APU - the A10-5800K, gives even better graphics performance. The quad-core A10-5800K is the flagship APU codenamed Trinity, has a base clock of 3.8 GHz which can scale up to 4.2 GHz on Turbo. It houses the 384-core Radeon HD 7660D GPU clocked at 800 MHz. This is quite an upgrade from the HD 6550D that was seen on the A8-3850.

We tested the APU on Gigabyte GA-F2A85X-UP4 board and 8 GB RAM @ 1333MHz. When it came to processor prowess, the A10-5800K gave 13,203 on Cinebench R10, a 9 per cent increase over the A8-3850. The score is still lower than the Intel Core i7-2600K. iTunes encoding



Price ₹7,000

was 15 secs faster on the A10-5800K than the A8 3850. But the real strength of this APU lies in the gaming performance. *Resident Evil 5* (1680x1050, medium, DX10) gave 52 fps; *STALKER: COP* (1680x1050, medium, DX11) gave a decent 32.4 fps and *DIRT 3* (1680x1050, med) gave 42.1 fps. These readings were much better than HD 4000 on the Intel Core i7-3770K, being over 12 fps in *Resident Evil 5* and *Dirt 3*. When we increased the memory speed to 1866MHz, we got a boost of 10 fps on each game on the A10-5800K.

If you are looking for a GPU-independent system, this is the processor for you. It offers the best gaming performance that we have seen on any processor, but is not so great at computing tasks. It is priced at USD 125 which will come around ₹7,000 which is a decent price.

Nimish Sawant

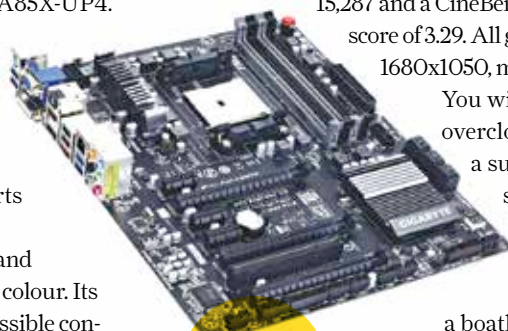
Gigabyte GA F2A85X-UP4

Feature-packed board for the latest Trinity APUs

AMD unveiled their Trinity APU platform for desktop and along with it a new socket - FM2. Gigabyte sent us their FM2 socket board - the GA F2A85X-UP4.

As you will notice from the nomenclature, it has a new A85X chipset. It offers some improvements over the A75 chipset in the form of two extra 6 Gbps ports and AMD Crossfire mode.

The board is well laid out and looks lovely in its matte black colour. Its back panel I/O port has all possible connectivity ports you can think of, including four display ports, four USB 3.0 ports and so on. The heatsink around the VRMs does not look very bulky, whereas the one of the Fusion control hub chipset is quite respectable with decent number of fins. It has a POST error code LEDs and a dedicated power and CMOS reset button.



Price ₹11,750

We tested an AMD A10-5800K APU along with 8 GB Kingston HyperX RAM using integrated HD 7660D graphics. We got a PC Mark Vantage score of 15,287 and a CineBench R11.5 multi-core rendering score of 3.29. All games score over 30 fps at 1680x1050, medium settings.

You will be much better off overclocking via the BIOS. We got a sufficient boost in gaming scores when we overclocked the memory to 2,133MHz. For a mid-range motherboard, it offers a boatload of features which we like. Overclocking was not as smooth as we expected, but then the APU that the UP4 will hold is more geared towards gaming.

As was expected from the number of features offered, the price of this board is definitely on the higher side considering the APU costs much less.

Nimish Sawant



Features 75
Overclocking..... 65
Build Quality 80
Value for money..... 60

Specifications

Chipset: AMD A85X; **SATA 6 Gbps ports:** 6; **USB 3.0 ports:** 4; **DIMM slots:** 4; **Display ports:** 1xHDMI, 1xD-Sub, 1xDVI-D, 1xDisplayPort; **Audio:** Realtek ALC892 codec; **DualBIOS:** Yes

Contact

Gigabyte India
Email: anilkumarr@gigabyte.in
Website: www.gigabyte.in

PS3 'master key' leaked

Crucial security information about the PlayStation 3 console has been leaked online by hackers who called themselves The Three Musketeers



BB Bluetooth 4.0 certified

At least one of the Blackberry 10 series of smartphones (RFH121LW) will come equipped with Bluetooth 4.0 capability

MapmyIndia CarPad 5 navigator

Precise navigation on an Android base, but pricey



The updated CarPad navigator from MapmyIndia is a much improved product, when compared to its predecessor, the CarPad 7.

A 5-inch display size means a more compact footprint. Straightforward design that essentially looks like a slab of chocolate! The windscreen mount design isn't the slickest one to install, because the suction cup and the armature of the dock are too close together.

This display is crisp enough for reading maps easily, and the touch response is among the better ones we have seen in GPS devices.

Open the navigation app, and it takes around 10 seconds to lock on to the satellite signal. This lock time is slightly quicker than the average 13 seconds across GPS devices. The interface of the maps is brilliant, just like the Aura maps we had seen in the Zx250 navigator. The 3D buildings and landmarks rendered extremely well. Navigation quality is very similar to the one we experienced on the Zx250, and it works brilliantly within Delhi. Voice navigation is quite precise with an easy to understand accent. The built-in speaker doesn't jar or distort even if you push the volume to the max. Unlike all other navigators we have tested till now, this one has dedicated volume controls.

The CarPad 5 will offer 35-40kms of navigation on a single charge. However, the CarPad 5 does come at a premium and you could save some money and consider the impressive MapmyIndia Zx250 for around Rs 15k.

Vishal Matbur



Features	80
Performance.....	80
Build Quality	70
Value for money.....	45

Specifications

Device type: GPS navigator; **Display:** 5-inch (480 x 800 pixels); **Maps:** Aura; **3D maps:** Yes; **Network:** 2G and 3G; **SIM card slot:** Yes; **Connectivity:** Wi-Fi, 3G, Bluetooth; **Expandable memory:** microSD; **Platform:** Android 2.3

Contact

MapmyIndia
Phone: 9999333223
Email: <http://www.mapmyindia.com/about/contact-us>

Logitech Tablet Keyboard

A good keyboard that is only let down by its build quality.



This keyboard is a nice companion for your iPad or any other Android device for that matter (we even tried it with an Android phone). It has an included home and search button, which are really useful when using a tablet and is something we would like to see in more tablet keyboards. The case is a nice accessory and while it doesn't feel like a premium product, it does its job and is reasonably sturdy. The keyboard is far more functional on an Android device, but only because Android has far better support for keyboards than iOS. Given the price, we would say this is a better buy than Apple's keyboard at the very least.



Features	80
Ergonomics.....	70
Build Quality	70
Value for money.....	75

Specifications

Support: Android 3.0, iOS 5+; **Power:** 4xAAA batteries; **Warranty:** 3 years; **Accessories:** Case+Stand

Contact

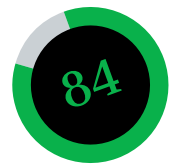
Logitech Electronics Pvt. Ltd.
Phone: 9833066008
Email: pgupta@logitech.com

Kaspersky Internet Security

A fully-features suite at an excellent price point.



The suite seems quite toned down compared to the some of the other ones we've seen, but don't let that fool you. This is quite a powerful suite and at the price, includes a lot of essential features to help you monitor and tweak your system and network. The network monitor and task manager are very simply designed, but also very functional. Features like the privacy cleaner are very useful and cover options such as clearing the browser cache or wiping the swap file on exit. The suite also comes with an in-built adblock utility and many other troubleshooting tools. Good value for money as well.



Features	95
Usability.....	75
Internet Security	85
Value for money.....	90

Specifications

Software Package: Safe Money, Secure keyboard, Parental Control, anti-spam, anti-phishing, anti-virus, vulnerability scanner and more.

Contact

Kaspersky Lab
Email: <http://support.kaspersky.com/helpdesk.html>

Future data overload?

Oracle has warned that the number of devices connected to the Internet will cross 50 billion by 2020, causing potential overload



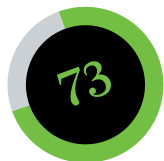
Hadoop on Windows

Microsoft has brought Hadoop to Windows via the beta release of an integrated software distribution, named Microsoft HDInsight Server for Windows

Bazaar

Samsung Galaxy Note II

It's the Samsung Galaxy SIII, and then some!



Features 85
Performance..... 85
Build Quality 65
Value for money..... 55

Specifications

Processor: Exynos 4412 Quad Core 1.6GHz; **Graphics:** Mali-400MP; **RAM:** 2GB; **Storage:** 16GB + microSD up to 64GB; **Display:** 5.5-inch (1280 x 720 pixels); Super AMOLED; Gorilla Glass 2; **Camera:** 8MP; **OS:** Android Jelly Bean

Contact

Samsung India
Phone: 1800-3000-8282
Email: <http://dgit.in/TLk8iT>

Simply put, the Galaxy Note II is an enlarged version of the Galaxy SIII, with a stylus thrown into the mix. Built well with no rough edges, the bezel flanking its display is quite thin, and the earpiece above its screen has an attractive chrome grille finish. However, the enamel finish on the back tends to become slippery with sweat or moisture, which isn't ideal.

The Note II's 5.5-inch display has a 16:9 aspect ratio, unlike 16:10 on the first Note's 5.3-inch display. It's Brightness when pushed above 70% works well in sunlight too. Surprisingly, the outdoor visibility isn't very good when you are using the auto brightness setting.

S-Pen is the unique feature of the Note series of phablets and tablets. You can use this to create notes, scribble on documents and even



Price
₹39,990

mark stuff on images. It is quite sensitive to the handwriting style though, and will take you some time to get the style in order, much like it is with accents and voice assistance systems.

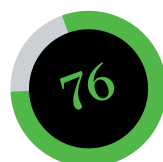
The Note II consistently pipped the Galaxy SIII in our benchmark tests, and the SIII till now is the most powerful Android smartphone. Multitasking on the Note II is a breeze as well. Graphics performance is on an equal footing with the Galaxy S3, but game load times reduce due to more RAM.

With its huge 3100mAh battery, the Note II lasted an impressive two full days easily as a primary phone. This device is recommended for big-screen handheld enthusiasts, those who want more than just your average smartphone.

Visbal Matbur

Lenovo IdeaPad Y580

Quite a powerful laptop, recommended for multimedia use



Lenovo IdeaPad Y580's colour scheme, premium finish and the overall poise has a lot of sophistication. The brushed metal finish on its lid doesn't catch fingerprints. Built solidly, there's hardly any flex on its chassis.

Its optical drive is Blu-ray capable, and that is a real value addition. Unlike the Beats Audio, or even Skull Candy that Dell now deploys, the Dolby audio setup on the Y580 is precise and to the point. The Y580's speakers handle vocals better than the Dell Inspiron 15R Special Edition's Skull Candy or the HP Pavilion series' Beats Audio.

Performance of the Y580 can be described as quite powerful. Its PC Mark Vantage score of 8464 is surpassed only by the Core i7-3610QM on the Toshiba Satellite L850. Boot-up times improved

considerably after we cleaned up the start menu, and deleted some of the preloaded trial software.

Its Nvidia graphics chip is quite good, too. Its 3D Mark O6 score of 9335 is among the highest across all laptops but scores lower in few game benchmarks than the AMD Radeon 7730M seen on the Inspiron 15R Special Edition. Expectedly, the battery life does dip quite a bit under the load of so much processing power. In our battery test, this one lasted 2 hours and 24 minutes.

This will last just over 3 hours in most usage cases that involve typical web browsing, a bit of music and document editing.

The Dell Inspiron 15R Special Edition is another option to consider, which has largely similar specs, but no Blu-ray drive.



Price
₹67,990

Features 80
Performance..... 80
Build Quality 70
Value for money..... 75

Specifications

Processor: Intel Core i7-3612QM @ 2.1GHz; **RAM:** 8GB; **GPU:** Nvidia GeForce GT630M (2GB) + Intel HD 4000; **Display:** 15.6-inch (1366 x 768 pixels); **Storage:** 1TB HDD; **Optical Drive:** Blu-Ray; **Ports:** 2 USB 3.0, 1 USB 2.0; HDMI out, SD card reader; **Connectivity:** Wi-Fi, LAN, Bluetooth; **OS:** Windows 7 Home (64-bit)

Contact

Lenovo India
Phone: 1800-3000-9990
Email: <http://dgit.in/SfgQID>

Visbal Matbur



Hands-free video calling

Japanese mobility firm DoCoMo NTT has revealed a glasses-like device that lets users make hands-free videocalls while staying mobile

MS personal data agreement

Microsoft has said it is considering remodifying its updated personal data agreement, after complaints from a US Congressman

Garmin nuvi 40LM GPS navigator

A budget GPS navigator that offers very good performance on the road



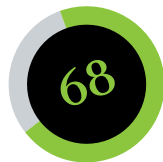
It is a huge positive that the nuvi 40LM from Garmin has the same navigation quality in multiple Indian languages as the much more expensive, but impressive nuvi 2565LM. The display is sharper and has better colour reproduction most of the times than the MapmyIndia RoadPilot. But you tend to see some reflections if the brightness is less than 50%.

The interface is easy to use thanks to the big icons and

text font size. Start the navigation app and it takes around 15 seconds for the satellite signal lock. This is slightly more than the average 13 seconds, but can also be attributed to atmospheric conditions at the given time.. The lane guidance feature is quite helpful. During the navigation process, this information either gets tagged along with the next voice-based directional guidance, or periodically mentioned if you are on a straight road.

The windshield mount is well designed, and doesn't get loose over time. That has been a big problem with most of the GPS devices that we tested recently. The device itself is well built, with a slightly rubberized finish which lends it grip. Garmin bundles a free lifetime map upgrade offer with the nuvi 40LM. Compare this to the likes of MapmyIndia who charge around Rs 990 for a single map update or Rs 1250 for an annual pack that offers two map updates. We recommend the nuvi 40LM if you are looking for a budget navigator.

Vishal Matbur



Features	70
Performance.....	80
Build Quality	75
Value for money	45

Specifications

Device type: GPS navigator;
Display: 4.3-inch (480 x 272 pixels);
Expandable memory: microSD;
 Preloaded India, Singapore & Malaysia maps

Contact

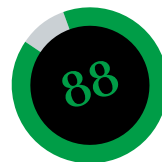
Garmin India
Phone: 011-41325001/02
Email: <http://www.garmin.co.in/support/>

Norton Internet Security

An amazing feature-set and UI at a reasonable price



This is one of the most feature-rich AV suites we've ever seen and the price is also just right. The interface is clean, simple and very accessible – even for novices. The reputation scanner, that scans all the system files on your system and then rates it based on its performance, reliability and online reputation is quite a nifty feature for identifying threats. Other utilities like a system monitor that monitors resource usage and even highlights the suite's own usage are a nice touch. The price is also quite reasonable considering what is on offer.



Features	95
Usability	95
Internet Security	75
Value for money	85

Specifications

Software Package: AntiVirus, Behavioral protection, Norton Management, Identity Safe, Safe Web, Parental Controls, Anti-phishing, Browser protection, Insight 2.0, Bandwidth management

Contact

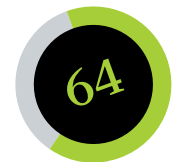
Kaspersky Lab
Email: <http://support.kaspersky.com/helpdesk.html>

AVG Internet Security 2013

As a full-fledged AV suite, AVG IS misses out on some essential features.



The AVG interface seems to have taken after Windows 8 and that really isn't a bad thing. The bland interface from the previous versions has been dumped and a refreshing change it is. The tiles give you a nice overview of your system's status, and while the detailed settings menu is still present, it has been well-disguised and its location is not immediately apparent. Unfortunately, AVG doesn't seem to have worked on the features-list as much as they could have. The suite is comparatively expensive and we wish it was a bit cheaper.



Features	50
Usability	85
Internet Security	60
Value for money	60

Specifications

Software Package: AntiVirus, AntiMalware, AntiRootKit, Email Scanner, Protective Cloud, Community Protection Network, LinkScanner SurfShield, Social Networking Protection

Contact

AVG
Website: <http://www.avg.com/in-en/customer-support>

Google's All-Time High

Google shares reached their highest-ever evaluation at \$768.05 on October 4th, following the sales growth of its Android platform



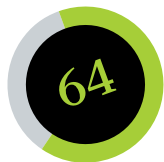
iOS 6.0.1 rumoured

It is rumoured that Apple will launch iOS 6.0.1 by end of this year, resolving many bugs and user complaints

Bazaar

Sony Xperia Tipo

The first budget Xperia phone is pretty good



Features	60
Performance.....	60
Build Quality	65
Value for money	70

Specifications

Processor: 800MHz single core with Qualcomm MSM7225A chipset; **Graphics:** Adreno 200; **RAM:** 512MB; **Display:** 3.2-inch (480 x 320 pixels); **Storage:** 2.5GB internal + microSD slot; **Battery:** 1500mAh

Contact

Sony Mobile India
Phone: 180030002800
Email: http://www.sonymobile.com/in/support/contact-us/contact-form/Phones/phone/en_IN/

The Tipo is the first entry level Android smartphone in Sony's Xperia series. Straight out of the box, its tiny form factor and surprisingly good finish catch your attention instantly. Below the display are three touch sensitive keys - return, home and options. The coloured plastic runs all around the sides and the back. The build quality is brilliant, something that thoroughly surprised us, given the product's aimed at the budget conscious customer. It is slightly on the thicker size, but still feels very light.

The 3.2-inch display on the Sony Xperia Tipo has its good and bad points. Straightaway, we like the screen's brightness levels and its liveliness in terms of colour reproduction. However, text crispness isn't the most optimum and even the app icon labels have



Price ₹9,499

a lot of noise around them. Surprisingly, the on-screen keypad isn't as cramped as one would expect. The Xperia Tipo does rather well within its boundaries. If you are opening a maximum of 3 basic apps at the same time, you will not face any sluggishness. However, any more and there will be a performance dip that will impact app opening times as well as even UI responsiveness. Interestingly, we found that Timescape doesn't slow down the performance on its own.

Good call quality when you are in a good signal reception area, but calls do drop when in an area with 2 signal bars or less.

The battery life on is quite good. Used as a primary smartphone, this one lasted just more than a day and a half. Overall, a decent phone.

Vishal Matbur

Dell Latitude E6430

A business laptop that comes with a premium price tag

The Latitude E6430 is a thick laptop, but that is to provide the extra solidity to the package. Dell calls it the Tri-metal combo - brushed aluminum on the outside, magnesium alloy wrapped corners and a powder-coated base. The rubber isolation protects the hard drive against any impact or sudden jerks.

The 14-inch display is completely matte and non-reflective, and that is a heaven sent for anyone who is looking at the laptop screen all day reading text and writing.

The review sample only came with a 320GB hard drive. The same laptop comes with options of a higher capacity HDD and even the SSD option. Surprisingly, the machine comes with a 32-bit version of Windows 7 preloaded, which cannot even use the full 4GB of RAM.

The keyboard has the chunky feel that we used to relate to the IBM ThinkPad series. Businesses would love the fact that getting used to this keyboard doesn't take time, and the key layout, size and travel are quite literally perfect.

Inevitably, the performance is just okay. Reloading this machine with a 64-bit OS would help. Battery life clocked almost 3 hours in the benchmark tests, and could be close to 5 in real life usage. You have the slot for an extra battery as well.

The HP Probook 4431s offers a Core i7 (Sandy Bridge) processor, 8GB RAM, 750GB hard drive and 1GB AMD Radeon 7470M graphics for around ₹70,000, and is worth considering.

Vishal Matbur



Price ₹94,130



Features	65
Performance.....	55
Build Quality	80
Value for money	55

Specifications

Processor: Intel Core i5-3320M @ 2.5GHz; **RAM:** 4GB; **Hard Drive:** 320GB; **Display:** 14-inch; 1366 x 768 pixels; **Graphics:** Intel HD 4000; **Connectivity:** Wi-Fi, LAN, Bluetooth; **OS:** Windows 7 Professional (32-bit)

Contact

Dell India
Phone: 1800-425-3002
Email: <http://dgit.in/VQJkfc>

Grandstream GXP1160/1165

Grandstream Networks announced two new 1-Line IP Telephone models, featuring a 2-inch LCD display and multi-language support



Sennheiser USB headsets

Sennheiser Communications has launched four new USB headsets as part of its Circle Line series, aimed at business use

Alienware X51

Compact gaming desktop that comes at a hefty price tag

The Alienware X51 gaming desktop sports a microATX form factor and its dimensions are loosely comparable to that of an Xbox 360 gaming console. The chassis' built well and the quality of its plastic exterior's quite sturdy. Despite its slimmer profile, the Alienware X51's internal fans do a very good job of keeping the chassis at room temperature with bare minimum hot spots. However, the Alienware X51 tones down the bling, compared to past Alienware desktops, which is a touch disappointing. With the Alienware X51, the focus is more on its diminutive size, design and slim form factor rather than its overstated style.



Price ₹67,900

The Alienware X51 sports a mini ITX form factor motherboard with pretty good hardware, as far as desktop PCs go. So long as basic hardware components are concerned, the Alienware X51 gaming PC has a respectable configuration even by gaming desktop standards, but it's nothing great or extraordinary considering its hefty price tag. Multitasking is never a worry on the Alienware X51 but its graphics performance wasn't in line with expectations.

Playing most recent games (like Batman Arkham City and GRID 3) is possible only at medium settings, as performance dips at Very High or Ultra settings. Overall, performance is good, but not great. The bundled keyboard is nice but the mouse isn't a gaming mouse, just a simple basic one - unexpected from an Alienware machine. At the end, the Alienware X51 is quite expensive even if you consider its Alienware tag.

Jayesh Shinde



Features	65
Performance.....	70
Build Quality	65
Value for money.....	40

Specifications

Dimensions: (W x D x H) 95 mm x 318 mm x 343 mm; **Weight:** 5.49 kg; **CPU:** Intel Core i7-2600 3.4 GHz; **GPU:** Intel HD 2000 and Nvidia GeForce GTX 555; **RAM:** 8GB; **HDD:** 1TB; **Ports:** USB 2.0 x 6, USB 3.0 x 2, HDMI, DVI x 2, SPDIF, Headphone, Microphone jack, Gigabit Ethernet; **Optical Drive:** DVD Writer; Wi-Fi: 802.11n

Contact

Dell India Pvt Ltd
Website: www.alienware.co.in
Phone: 1800-425-4026

Antec P280

Silent, classy cabinet with excellent build quality



Price: ₹7,900

Not everyone wants a cabinet with flashing lights. If build quality and silent operation are your main expectations out of a cabinet, then the Antec P280 is a model worth considering. It supports upto XL-ATX form factor boards. The dedicated SSD trays, ample options for wire-management, enough clearance space behind the motherboard tray as well as an option to control fan speeds are good features. Lack of fans on the front does seem a bit unfair considering the pricing, but the build quality compensates that.



Features	70
Performance.....	70
Build Quality	85
Value for money.....	70

Specifications

Case type: Mid Tower; **5.25-inch bays:** 3; **3.5-inch bays:** 6; **Expansion slots:** 9

Contact

Antec Inc.
Website: www.antec.com
Email: indiainfo@antec.com

Transcend StoreJet Cloud 32 GB

A shot in the arm for your mobile devices space requirement



Price: ₹5,500

Wireless streaming of audio and SD content was flawless, but with 720P and above clips, we found some lag on a cellphone. On the iPad full HD content ran smoothly. File transfer to the StoreJet drive happened under 15 MB/s via the USB cable. Gives a five-hour battery life. The WiFi bridge option did not seem to work on smartphones or tablets. It allows you to transfer content from your mobile device to the StoreJet drive, also allowing camera access from the StoreJet app. At ₹5,500 it is priced on the higher side.



Features	60
Performance.....	60
Build Quality	70
Value for money.....	55

Specifications

Capacity: 32 GB; **Interface:** USB 2.0; **Network:** WiFi 802.11 b/g/n; **Video Formats:** AVI, MOV, M4V, MP4

Contact

Transcend
Website: www.transcend.com
Email: sales@mediamangroup.com



Plantronics Blackwire 700

Plantronics introduced its Blackwire 700 series of corded crossover USB headsets, designed for multimedia, PC and mobile calls

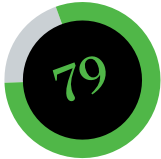
Assassin's Creed III launch

Launched on October 30th, Ubisoft's latest instalment in the Assassin's Creed series has gamers eagerly waiting to get their own copies

Bazaar

HP OfficeJet Pro 8600 Plus

An ideal candidate for your office needs



- Features 80
- Performance..... 80
- Build Quality 85
- Value for money 70

Specifications

Resolution: 4800x1200 dpi; **Functions:** Print, Copy, Scan, Fax, Web; **Input tray capacity:** 250 sheets; **Output tray capacity:** 150 sheets; **Memory:** 128 MB; **Scan Resolution:** 4800 dpi; **Display:** 4.3-inch touchscreen; **Weight:** 12.41kg

Contact

HP India
Website: <http://www8.hp.com/in/en/home.html>
Phone: 1800 42 54 999

Apart from offering the standard print, scan and copy functionality, the 8600 Plus also offers ePrint – where you assign an email ID to the printer and send print jobs from anywhere in the world; AirPrint – which allows you to print content off your iOS devices; WiFi – which allows you to print over your WiFi network and so on. The OfficeJet Pro also comes with a 4.3-inch touchscreen which acts as the operational panel. Mastering the operational panel does not take much time. The 8600 Plus comes with a USB port as well as memory card slot for quick off-the-camera printing. It supports auto-duplex printing and also on the automatic-document feeder tray on top.

Considering it is an OfficeJet Pro series AIO, it offers high speed prints. For text printing it took

12.97 secs and highlighting with a marker will not leave behind any smudges. High quality mixed document printing was also quite fast at 24.12

secs. Colour copying took 14 seconds. It even printed an A4 glossy photograph under 2 minutes. While the print quality is great with paper colour prints, the glossy A4 photo print wasn't that great as we noticed graining in certain regions of our test print.

While the printer costs ₹20,000, the colour cartridges are priced at ₹1,565 (for 1500 prints) and ₹1,455 (for 1100 prints).

For home users there are more economical options available. The 8600 Plus is ideal for a small home-office setup as it gives very fast speeds and good quality prints.



Price ₹20,000

Nimish Sawant

WD My Net N900 Central

An exorbitantly priced, feature-packed power-house

The WD My Net N900 Central is an unusual router in the sense that it is one of the first one we've come across that comes with an in-built 1TB or 2TB HDD.

The router itself is exceptionally endowed with just about every feature you would need from a router, including "cloud" access, NAS, parental control, gigabit ethernet ports, etc.

Setting up the router was a breeze. But, we couldn't run the initial setup by just navigating to 192.168.1.1 as we normally would on a router and had to actually run the installation CD and setup the router completely before being able to access it. The process is quite straightforward and WD has taken care to ensure that the visuals are self-explanatory and allow even a layman to setup the device with ease. We quite like the web UI of the router and it is

among the more elegant and faster interfaces we've seen so far. Setting up the router for "cloud access" or even mobile access via the app (Android and iOS) was also very simple and required not more than a couple of very simple steps.



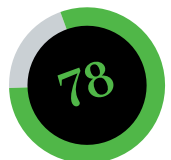
Price ₹25,999

We would have liked to see more USB3.0 slots instead of the single USB 2.0 slot given the extremely high price of this device. USB 3.0 won't really matter over WiFi,

but it will make a huge difference over LAN. That said, accessing a USB drive over the network was painfully slow.

The performance of the device was strictly average for a dual-band router and in the same league as the ASUS RT-N66U. Not a bad router by any means, but we feel that the price tag is overly exorbitant and it would have probably been better off as a simple dual-band router.

Anirudh Regidi



- Features 90
- Performance..... 80
- Build Quality 80
- Value for money 60

Specifications

Dual-band, N900 capable, DLNA support, Parental Control, Cloud access, in-built 1TB HDD, 1xUSB 2.0 slot.

Contact

Western Digital
Email: anil.kukreja@wdc.com
Website: N/A



ASUS ET2300

ASUS has launched its new ET2300 all-in-one desktop, with a 23" touchscreen, aimed for the Windows 8 platform

Halo 4 launch

343 Industries' Halo 4 is one of the most hotly anticipated titles of the year, and is launching on November 6th

ASUS HD 7970 Matrix Platinum Edition 3GB

Your ticket into an elite club!

The ASUS HD 7970 Matrix Platinum is the latest entrant in the ROG branded GPUs and as of now is the best performing AMD card out there. It comes with a massive factory overclock and has headroom for much more. The card comes with a custom PCB as expected with features like VGA Hotwire, Tweak IT, Load Indicator etc.

There are two variants with the better one called the Platinum card. Compared to a



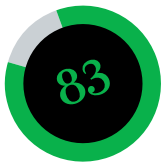
Price ₹35,500

stock 7970 which runs at 925 MHz, these cards are overclocked by 125 MHz and 175 MHz for the non-platinum and platinum edition cards respectively. Likewise, the memory is clocked at 1650 MHz which is 275 MHz above stock.

Rarely do we get to see cards with exceptional build quality and this is one such card. It features DirectCU II like most of the ROG members and has a metal plate on its front and back. Given the weight, these reinforcement plates are a necessity. Among the many features that makes this card stand out is the VRM design - this card features 20 power phases of which 16 cater to the GPU while the remaining four are for the memory.

On a performance only scale, the ASUS 680 DC2T still manages to beat this card in most benchmarks. However, this card has so much overclocking headroom that at maximum potential this is the best single GPU card hands down. The highest overclock record at hwbot is currently held by this card. As you can see, this is an impressive GPU.

Mithun Mobandas



Features	90
Performance	90
Build Quality	90
Value for money	60

Specifications

Chipset: Tahiti; **Bus standard:** PCI Express 3.0; **Base clock:** 1050 MHz; **Boost clock:** 1100 MHz; **Memory clock:** 6600 MHz (1650 MHz DDR5); **Memory:** 3072 MB GDDR5; **CrossFireX:** 3 way CF support; **Stream processors:** 2048; **Texture units:** 128; **ROPs:** 32; **Connectivity ports:** HDMI, DVI x2, DP x4; **DirectX Support** - 11.1; **OpenGL Support:** 4.3; **Power Connectors:** 8 Pin connector x2; **TDP:** 375 W; **Dimensions (LxWxD):** 279 mm x 130 mm x 54 mm; **Fans:** 2 x 100 mm; **Weight:** 1.4 kg; **Warranty:** 3 years

Contact

ASUS Technology Pvt. Ltd
Phone: +91 22 6766 8800 / 18002090365
Email: reachus@asus.com
Website: www.asus.in

Edimax IC-3015Wn

Decent IP cam hampered by bad server support



Price: ₹4,700

Despite having a metal body, this camera looks and feels slightly better than something someone slapped together in some workshop just down the street. The camera is an IP camera which means that you can connect it to a network via WiFi or LAN and then access it over the network. Not something new and it could have been better implemented. The software kept crashing on us and we had to login multiple times. We've also been receiving multiple mails regarding motion detection even after the camera was turned off. When it works, the camera does a pretty decent job, but seems expensive.



Features	65
Performance	60
Build Quality	65
Value for money	65

Specifications

Max resolution: 1.3MP
WiFi speed: 802.11b/g/n 150Mbps
Dimensions: 80x55mm
Accessories: Stand and wall mount

Contact

Mr. Eric Yang
Phone: 9769919322
Email: ericyang@edimax.com.tw

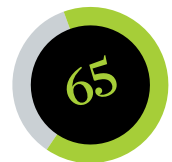
Bose SIE2i earphones

A well-performing product with an expensive price-tag



Price: ₹8,663

Bose does charge a premium for the SIE2 series of headphones. However, you do get quite a lot for that much money- good vocal clarity, neutral sound, in-line volume and playback controls, interesting colour options, the water-resistance capabilities, Reebok branded armband and good build quality. Ambient noise does trickle in quite a bit, but then again, the SIE2i aren't meant for environments where noise cancellation shouldn't be used. Colour options may not appeal to everyone though.



Features	70
Performance	70
Build Quality	60
Value for money	60

Specifications

Earphone type: In-ear Canal Water Resistance; **Dimensions:** Headphones; **Width:** 83 cm; **Weight:** 18 gm

Contact

Bose India
Phone: 1800-11-2673
Email: : https://www.boseindia.com/corporate/bose-contact.aspx?cmd=Contact



LG Optimus L7

LG has dropped prices of its Optimus L7 model by 20 percent in India, because of poor sales this year



Logitech Touch Peripherals

Logitech introduced the new Logitech Wireless Rechargeable Touchpad T650, Logitech Touch Mouse T620 and Logitech Zone Touch Mouse T400 for Windows 8 touch interface

Bazaar

F&D W330BT

Strictly average, bordering on pointless



Price
₹5,990

After the surprisingly splendid performance of F&D's F680 last month, we were quite eager to try this speaker set. But soon after hooking it up, our excitement diminished in ever increasing amounts. Let's start with the feature set. They're wireless speakers, which can be a bit misleading to those not familiar with the terminology. To clear the air understand that the speaker set does have wires. There's the power cable and indeed wires connect the

satellites to the subwoofer; painfully short wires if we may add. So, the wireless tag applies only to the source. You can pair your phone (or other BT devices) and play music wirelessly.

Now you might think that's a nifty feature for the one off case where a friend who's come over wants to play some song off his phone. But is it really convenient when you have to reach all the way to the back of the subwoofer to begin the pairing? Speaking of pairing, the wireless link was lost several times during the test at close range. In fact even in wired playback the speaker set went in and out of consciousness when the volume went beyond the halfway mark. Perhaps a fault with this particular unit so we won't penalise it too much on that account. Performance? Loud, good bass but a very bright sound signature. So you get clarity but the mid and lower-mid range lacks body, so vocals sound at best flat and at worst as if processed through a flanger. Worth the price tag? Nope. Unless of course you have some weird predilection for non-portable bluetooth playback.

Siddharth Parwatay



Features	60
Performance.....	50
Build Quality	60
Value for money.....	40

Specifications

Power output: 14Wx2+28W (RMS),
Satellite driver: 2.5", Subwoofer
driver: 6.5", Frequency response:
250 - 20KHz (satellite) 30 - 100Hz
(subwoofer), Signal to noise ratio: ≥
70dB, Weight: 3.5Kg (net)

Contact

Fenda Audio India Pvt. Ltd.
Website: www.fendaudio.com
Email: care@soyerelectronics.com
Phone: 1800 425 5546

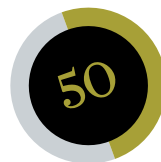
Belkin CoolSpot

Cheap, portable, not great



Price:
₹1,060

The Belkin CoolSpot laptop cooler is an absolute bare bones cooling pad, with no bells and whistles. Compared to the Cooler Master Notepad U and X3, the Belkin CoolSpot isn't as impressive, sporting no extra features apart from its cooling fan and USB power cable. The product is light but flimsy, with cable management underneath, and it's slightly inclined from front to back. However, it didn't perform exceptionally well, just enough to show that laptop temps do roll down by a few degrees. The product is quite portable and worth considering if you can't spare more than ₹1,000 for a laptop cooler.



Features	40
Performance.....	50
Build Quality	50
Value for money.....	60

Specifications

Dimension: 11.7 x 1.8 x 11.4 inches;
Weight: 600 gm; No. Of fans: 1;
Warranty: 3 years

Contact

Belkin India
Email: NA
Phone: SMS BELKIN to 54646
Website: www.belkin.co.in

ADATA DashDrive Elite HE720

A slim and sexy external hard drive



Price:
₹5,000

ADATA DashDrive HE720 is a drive that is meant for someone who is looking at a great-looking drive to complement their notebooks or desktops. The one-touch backup button is a valuable addition. Sequential and Assorted Reads: 103 and 89.77 MB/s respectively. Sequential and Assorted Writes: 90 / 53 MB/s respectively. As far as 500 GB drives go, the HE720 was only slower than the Buffalo MiniStation Thunderbolt The cost per GB is around ₹10.73 which is on the higher side for a 500 GB drive when you take into consideration the overall performance. But for someone considering pure looks, the cost isn't much.



Features	70
Performance.....	65
Build Quality	70
Value for money.....	60

Specifications

Interface: USB 3.0; Unformatted
Capacity: 465.76 GB; Backup Utility:
Yes; Rotational Speed: 5400 RPM

Contact

ADATA Technology (India) Pvt Ltd
Email: sales_in@adata-group.com
Website: www.adata-group.com

Price Watch

Find out the updated prices of cellphones, external hard drives and USB 3.0 flash drives

Killer Rigs

Thinking of building a new rig for yourself or have a friend bugging you for rig suggestions? Read on



Budget photo printers

With Diwali just round the corner, a lot of festive photos will be clicked. Here's what to do if you're scouting a photo printer

Agent 001

agent001@thinkdigit.com

It has been sometime since I took a proper look at buying photo printers, and it's mainly due to two reasons: 1) MFPs or multi-function printers have cannibalized and eaten into the single-function printer space, and 2) nothing much seems to be going on in the single-function printers at the budget end of the spectrum, and we're talking about photo printers that cost less than ₹10,000. Printers aren't seeing new products launched day in and day out like smartphones, tablets and ultrabooks, for instance. Printers aren't hot anymore, they're dull and boring boxes, not as exciting as some other obvious products. However, they serve a purpose and for this reason alone I shan't ignore them wholly. We'll be only discussing A4 printers in the space below, for I don't know how many of you are really looking at A3 printers for home use – if many of you are, I might review some of them just to let you know which one to buy.

When we last looked at photo printers selling under ₹10,000 in a comparison test, several months ago, we declared the Canon Pixma iP4870 as the Best

Performer, while the HP Officejet e609a bagged the Best Buy award. The Canon photo printer was easily the best, with photo prints that reproduced skin tones and glow extremely well. Images had just the right level of colour saturation, gradients were smooth, reflections and shadows were believable, and the overall photos were very good for home use. Now, Canon officially doesn't list the printer on its website anymore, nor does it manufacture it, but I'd still like to say that you should buy this printer (if you



MFCJ625DW Brother

just need a photo printer for your home) if you stumble across it forgotten under a heap in some IT shop in Lamington Road, SP Road, or Nehru Place – not only will it be much cheaper than last year's price, it'll be still worth your

money. Trust me, printer technology hasn't improved by leaps and bounds to suddenly render obsolete the best performing photo printer from last year – no way. So yeah, keep an eye out for these bargains.

The other option, which is in keeping with marketing realities and availability of products, is to just opt for a multi-function printer within that budget (10k), one that's hopefully good at printing photos. Of all the colour inkjet multi-function printers we've reviewed this year, I'd like to bring into focus two products in particular: the Brother MFC-J625DW and Canon Pixma E510. Not only do these MFPs have solid photocopying and scanning abilities, their inkjet cartridges when paired with the right type of paper produce some of the best photo prints you can expect to get out of an MFP selling under ₹10,000. Not only is the total cost of ownership of the Brother MFC-J625DW lower and more economical than most of its competitors, but it also offers an array of connectivity features not seen on most of its competitors.

Other than these respectable printers for your home, what if you need a portable, compact printer to carry around on vacations, capable of producing instant prints? While I haven't reviewed it, the Canon Selphy CP900 is one of only two new compact photo printers to launch in this calendar year, alongside the Epson Picturemate PM 245, which I did examine a couple of months ago. However, the reality of both these devices are that they're extremely niche and expensive compared to traditional, table-top photo printers. Go ahead and buy them only if you can't wait to come back home and print your vacation photos.

Oh and don't forget, while you visit retail stores to check printers out in action, some of the best deals and discounts for them are now available online. Ecommerce websites are all the rage right now, and I found out that Flipkart has quite an extensive printer section with up-to-date products; Infibeam and Naaptol, too, for that matter. Definitely scout these ecommerce websites to get the best possible deal for your next photo printer purchase. Good luck! 🍀

HMV launches online marketplace

HMV Group has launched an online marketplace for third-party applications and software in its bid to compete with rival Amazon



Lumia 800 prices slashed

Nokia has slashed prices of its Lumia 800 model once again. It is now retailing for ₹18,867

Agent 001

Tablet connundrum

I want to buy a tablet. I'm a little bit confused so please suggest me some good ones. Here are my tablet requirements -

- Screen size: 7-inch or larger
- Connectivity:
 1. USB for 3G Dongle/SIM card slot
 2. Wi-fi & HDMI Port (both optional)
- Smooth playback of 1080p HD Videos
- Camera: Front & Rear

Waiting for your reply. Thank you.

Rohit Saraf

Since you haven't mentioned a budget, we would recommend you take a look at the Samsung Galaxy Tab 2 P3100. It is priced at ₹19,300 and fulfills all your requirements. The only downside is that it doesn't play .MKV files natively and you will have to download a third party app to play these videos - no biggie, there are plenty available in the Google Play Store. You can read our detailed review of the device here: <http://dgit.in/StuTaH>.



Samsung Galaxy Tab 2 P3100

The market is full of sub 15k budget tablets that also fulfill your requirement but the Tab 2 is a good premium device. If you have a specific budget in mind then do let us know. Until then, the Tab 2 is good for you. It also doubles up as a phone since it has the ability to house a SIM card.

Graphics card query

My system specs are as given below:

- Intel Pentium Dual core processor @ 2.66 GHz
- ASUS P5KPLAMPS motherboard
- 2 GB DDR2 RAM
- LG Flatron W1941S monitor
- Umax 450w SMPS

Please suggest a good graphic card for my system around 5k as I would be playing latest games on my PC.

Vipul Yadav

If you want to play the latest games, you will have to increase your budget to at least ₹8,000.

However, in your budget, we would suggest you go with AMD Radeon HD 6670, at the very least. But you will have to keep options such as Anti-aliasing and Anisotropic Filtering at the very minimum to get decent frame rates while playing the latest games at HD resolutions.

Laptop shopping

Please suggest a laptop that I can get for long term use. I am interested in the Dell 14z and HP Envy 4 or Envy 6. I have heard about HP's hard disk crash problem, battery longevity issues, and adapter issues from my friends. So I am a bit confused. Also please tell me which is a better bet, the Intel Core i3 or

Core i5 processor? I am an automation program developer. I am interested in HP. So your suggestion is quite important to me. Thanks.


Amiya Rajan Pradhan



HP Envy 4 ultrabook

The HP Envy 4 ultrabook we reviewed recently (read our full review here <http://dgit.in/XUxGgk>) is a very good ultrabook, and we recommend it if you're interested in spending close to ₹60,000 on your next laptop. It's unfortunate your friend had a bad experience with HP, but these things happen even to the best of brands. HP's one of the top PC makers in the world and India, and they have an extensive network of support and service centers. If you have a brand preference for HP, we think you should stick with that.

Between the Intel Core i3 and Core i5 processors, Core i5 processors are better. Among laptops, most Core i3 and Core i5 have two cores each, but Core i5 has an additional feature like Turbo Boost (dynamic overclocking) which significantly improves its performance on full load. Core i5 chips also have larger cache size, besides clock frequency. **f**



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Sony Vaio T13

Sony unveils touch-enabled Vaio T13 ultrabook running on Windows 8



MTS MTag 353

MTS launches Android based smartphone at Rs 5,999 powered by an 800MHz Qualcomm processor

SPEND SMART

Updated prices of smartphones and external hard drives



SMARTPHONES

Brand	Model	Operating System	Processor (in MHz)	Display Size (in inches)	Primary Camera (MP)	Battery Rating (in mAh)	Price (in ₹)
Blackberry	Curve 9320	Blackberry 7.1 OS	806	2.44	3.2	1450	14,151
Blackberry	Curve 9360	Blackberry 7 OS	800	2.44	5	1000	17,999
Blackberry	Torch 9860	Blackberry 7 OS	1200	3.7	5	1230	21,599
Blackberry	Bold 9900	Blackberry 7 OS	1200	2.8	5	1230	33,099
HTC	Desire C	Android 4.0	600	3.5	5	1230	11,899
HTC	ChaCha	Android 2.3	800	2.6	5	1250	12,499
HTC	One V	Android 4.0	1000	3.7	5	1500	17,899
HTC	Sensation XE	Android 2.3	1500	4.3	8	1730	23,999
HTC	One S	Android 4.0	1700	4.3	8	1650	25,900
HTC	One X	Android 4.0	1500	4.7	8	1800	34,999
Huawei	Ideos X5 Pro	Android 2.3	1000	3.8	5	1500	11,490
LG	Optimus Hub E510	Android 2.3	800	3.5	5	1500	11,999
LG	Optimus L5 Dual E615	Android 4.0	800	4	5	1500	13,499
LG	Optimus L7 P705	Android 4.0	1000	4.3	5	1700	15,990
LG	Optimus Sol E730	Android 2.3	1000	3.8	5	1500	16,990
LG	Optimus 3D Max P725	Android 2.3	1200	4.3	5	1520	28,990
Motorola	Defy Plus	Android 2.3	1000	3.7	5	1700	12,999
Motorola	Atrix 2	Android 2.3	1000	4.3	8	1785	18,999
Motorola	RAZR XT910	Android 2.3	1200	4.3	8	1780	21,999
Nokia	603	Symbian Belle OS	1000	3.5	5	1300	12,860
Nokia	808 Pureview	Symbian Belle OS	1300	4	41	1400	33,899
Nokia	Lumia 610	Windows Phone 7.5	800	3.7	5	1300	12,999
Nokia	Lumia 710	Windows Phone 7.5	1400	3.7	5	1300	15,499
Nokia	Lumia 800	Windows Phone 7.5	1400	3.7	8	1450	24,999
Nokia	Lumia 900	Windows Phone 7.5	1400	4.3	8	1830	32,999
Samsung	Galaxy Ace Duos S6802	Android 2.3	832	3.5	5	1300	11,900
Samsung	Omnia M S7530	Windows Phone 7.5	1000	4	5	1500	15,900
Samsung	Galaxy S Duos S7562	Android 4.0	1000	4	5	1500	16,900
Samsung	Galaxy S Advance i9070	Android 2.3	1000	4	5	1500	19,500
Samsung	Galaxy Note N-7000	Android 2.3	1400	5.29	8	2500	29,990
Samsung	Galaxy S 3	Android 4.0	1400	4.8	8	2100	34,900
Samsung	Galaxy Note 2 N7100	Android 4.1	1600	5.5	8	3100	38,500
Samsung	Galaxy S 2 I9100	Android 2.3	1200	4.27	8	1650	25,900
Sony	Xperia Go	Android 2.3	1000	3.5	5	1305	17,990
Sony	Xperia Neo L	Android 4.0	1000	4	5	1460	18,499
Sony	Xperia Sola	Android 2.3	1000	3.7	5	1320	19,999
Sony	Xperia SL	Android 4.0	1700	4.3	12.1	1750	30,999
Sony	Xperia Ion	Android 4.0	1500	4.6	12	1900	32,990
Xolo	X900	Android 2.3	1600	4.03	8	1460	17,000



Mozilla Firefox 16

Mozilla launched its Firefox 16 browser for Windows, Mac, Linux and Android OS with new developer tools



WebPlatform

Apple, Adobe, Google, HP, Microsoft and many others have come together to provide single source for all the latest information about web standards

Price Watch



EXTERNAL HARD DRIVES

Brand	Model Name	HDD Capacity (unformatted) (GB)	Rotational Speed (RPM)	Buffer Size (MB)	Powered/Non-Powered	Cost Per GB (₹)	Price (₹)
ADATA	DashDrive Durable HD 710	465.76	5400	8	Powered	8.8	4,100
ADATA	HV621	931.51	5400	8	Powered	6.22	5,800
Buffalo	Mini Station	465.73	5400	8	Powered	18.68	8,700
Buffalo	Mini Station Thunderbolt	465.76	5400	8	Powered	37.57	17,500
Seagate	Portable Drive (1 TB)	931.51	5000	16	Powered	5.39	5,025
Seagate	Backup Plus	931.51	5400	8	Powered	5.71	5,325
Seagate	Backup Plus Desk	2794.39	7200	64	Non-Powered	3.52	9,850
Seagate	Satellite	465.76	5400	8	Powered	21.68	10,100
Seagate	Portable Drive (1.5 TB)	1397.26	5400	8	Powered	8.94	12,500
Silicon Power	Stream S20	698.64	5400	8	Powered	6.29	4,399
Silicon Power	Diamond D05	931.51	5400	8	Powered	6.22	5,799
Sony	HD-EG5/B	465.76	5400	8	Powered	9.11	4,245
Toshiba	Canvio 3.0	465.76	5400	8	Powered	8.05	3,750
Toshiba	Canvio 3.0 Plus	931.51	5400	8	Powered	5.95	5,550
Transcend	StoreJet 25M3	931.51	5400	8	Powered	6.44	6,000
Transcend	StoreJet 35T3	1863.02	7200	64	Non-Powered	4.29	8,000
Western Digital	Passport Essential	465.73	5400	8	Powered	9.23	4,300
Western Digital	My Book Essential	2794.49	5400	64	Non-Powered	3.9	10,900
Western Digital	My Passport	1862.98	5400	8	Powered	5.9	11,000



USB 3.0 FLASH DRIVES

Brand	Model	Capacity	Price
ADATA	S107	8	550
ADATA	C103	16	748
ADATA	S102	32	1500
Corsair	Flash Voyager Slider	8	850
Corsair	Flash Voyager	8	1093
Corsair	Flash Voyager	16	1495
Corsair	Flash Voyager GT	16	1955
Corsair	Flash Voyager	32	2530
Corsair	Flash Voyager Slider	64	3651
Corsair	Flash Vogayer GT	64	5003
Kingmax	UD-09	32	1230
Kingmax	ED07	64	4234
Kingston	Data Traveler HyperX 3.0	256	18000
SanDisk	Extreme USB 3.0	64	5189
Silicon Power	Marvel M60	32	2799
Strontium	USB JetFlash	16	650
Transcend	JetFlash 760	8	716
Transcend	JetFlash 700	16	1055
Transcend	JetFlash 760	32	4000
Verbatim	V3	16	700

digit KILLER RIGS

Everything you'll ever need to build your own PC. Whatever your budget.

■ Basic rig = ₹21,765 ■ HTPC = ₹22,700 ■ Entry-level gaming = ₹33,065 ■ Mid-range gaming = ₹58,186 ■ Ultra high-end = ₹1,48,648

BASIC RIG

Processor	Intel Pentium G840	4000
Motherboard	ASRock H61M-PS2	2750
RAM	Corsair 2GB DDR3 1333MHz	650
HDD	Seagate 500GB 7200.12	3650
Monitor	BenQ G610HDAL	3900
Graphics Card	None	0
Cabinet	Cooler Master Elite 310	1600
PSU	Seasonic SS-400ES	2700
Speaker (2.1)	Altec Classic Audio BXR1221	1100
Mouse	Zebtronics Judwaa 5 (Bundle)	0
Optical Drive	Samsung 22x SATA DVD Writer	950
Keyboard	Zebtronics Judwaa 5 (Bundle)	465
Sound Card	None	0
Total		21,765

HTPC

Processor	AMD A6-3650	5900
Motherboard	ASRock A75M	4300
RAM	Corsair 2GB DDR3 1333MHz	650
HDD	Seagate Barracuda 2 TB	6150
Monitor	None (your TV)	0
Graphics Card	None (HD6530D onboard)	0
Cabinet	Zebtronics Tambi	2000
PSU	Bundled (150W)	0
Speaker	None	0
Mouse	MS Wireless laser Combo XVA-00020	2750
Keyboard	Bundled	0
Optical Drive	Samsung 22x SATA DVD Writer	950
Sound Card	None	0
Total		22,700

ENTRY-LEVEL GAMING

Processor	AMD A8-3850	7400
Motherboard	GIGABYTE GA-A75M-D2H	6800
RAM	G-skill F3-10600CL9S-4GBNT	1050
HDD	Seagate 500GB 7200.12	3650
Monitor	BenQ G2222HD	7000
Graphics Card	None	0
Cabinet	Cooler Master Elite 310	1600
PSU	Corsair CX430	2300
Speaker	Altec Lansing V2621	1850
Mouse	Zebtronics Judwaa 5 (Bundle)	0
Optical Drive	Samsung 22x SATA DVD Writer	950
Keyboard	Zebtronics Judwaa 5 (Bundle)	465
Sound Card	None	0
Total		33,065

MID-RANGE GAMING

Processor	Intel Core i5-3450	11500
Motherboard	Intel DB75EN	5600
RAM	G-skill F3-10600CL9S-4GBNT	1200
HDD	Seagate 500GB 7200.12	3650
Monitor	Samsung P2350	10800
Graphics Card	MSI N560GTX Ti M2D1GD5-OC	14336
Cabinet	Cooler Master Elite 310	1600
PSU	Corsair GS 600	4000
Speaker	Altec Lansing V2621	1850
Mouse	Razer Abyssus (bundled)	0
Optical Drive	Samsung 22x SATA DVD Writer	950
Keyboard	Razer Cyclosa (Bundled)	2700
Sound Card	None	0
Total		58,186

ULTRA HIGH-END GAMING

Processor	Intel Core i7-3770K	20000
Motherboard	ASRock Fatal1ty Z77 Professional	15999
RAM	Gskill F3-12800CL9D-8GBXL	3150
HDD	Seagate 2 TB + Crucial m4 128 GB	14299
Monitor	BenQ XL2420T	21000
Graphics Card	ZOTAC GTX 680 2 GB	33500
Cabinet	Cooler Master HAF922	7200
PSU	Seasonic X850 (80+ Gold)	10000
Speaker	F&D F680	3500
Mouse	Tt eSPORTS Theron	3500
Optical Drive	LG Blu-ray WH14NS40 RW	7000
Keyboard	Logitech G510	4800
Sound Card	ASUS Xonar DX 7.1	4700
Total		1,48,648

OPTIONAL ACCESSORIES

Speakers (5.1)	Logitech Z5500	17500
Controller	Xbox360 Controller (wired)	1350
UPS	APC 700VA (BE 700Y-IN)	3550
UPS	APC 1500VA (SUA1500I)	10700
Webcam	Microsoft LifeCam Cinema	4300
Headphones	Klipsch Image S4i	3850
Mousepad	Razer Vespula	1700
External DVD-Writer	Asus/Toshiba/Buffalo	1900
Sound Card	ASUS Xonar Essence STX	7300
USB Hub	Belkin 7 port USB HUB	1000
Wireless router	TP-Link WR740N	1100
CPU Cooler	Corsair H100	7400
Thermal Paste	Arctic Cooling MX2	400

worldview

OUR PICK OF THE BEST TECH ARTICLES FROM AROUND THE GLOBE

(MUST READS)



7 SCIENTIFIC FACTS THAT WILL RUIN MOVIES FOR YOU

Some movies feature scientific mistakes so basic and so terrible, they give you what can only be described as a logic epilepsy. From Jeff Goldblum being able to decrypt alien technology in Independence Day to Texas sized asteroids going undetected in Armageddon this article pokes fun at many more mistakes.

<http://dgit.in/X7hadF>

THE STATE OF THE WEB, OATMEAL STYLE

The Oatmeal, which is a popular web comics and which has probably made Nikola Tesla viral in the last couple of months, had put up this comic. The Oatmeal puts things in perspective, and in the process rips apart the Instagram acquisition by Facebook, Google+'s redesign and so on.

<http://dgit.in/VgJere>

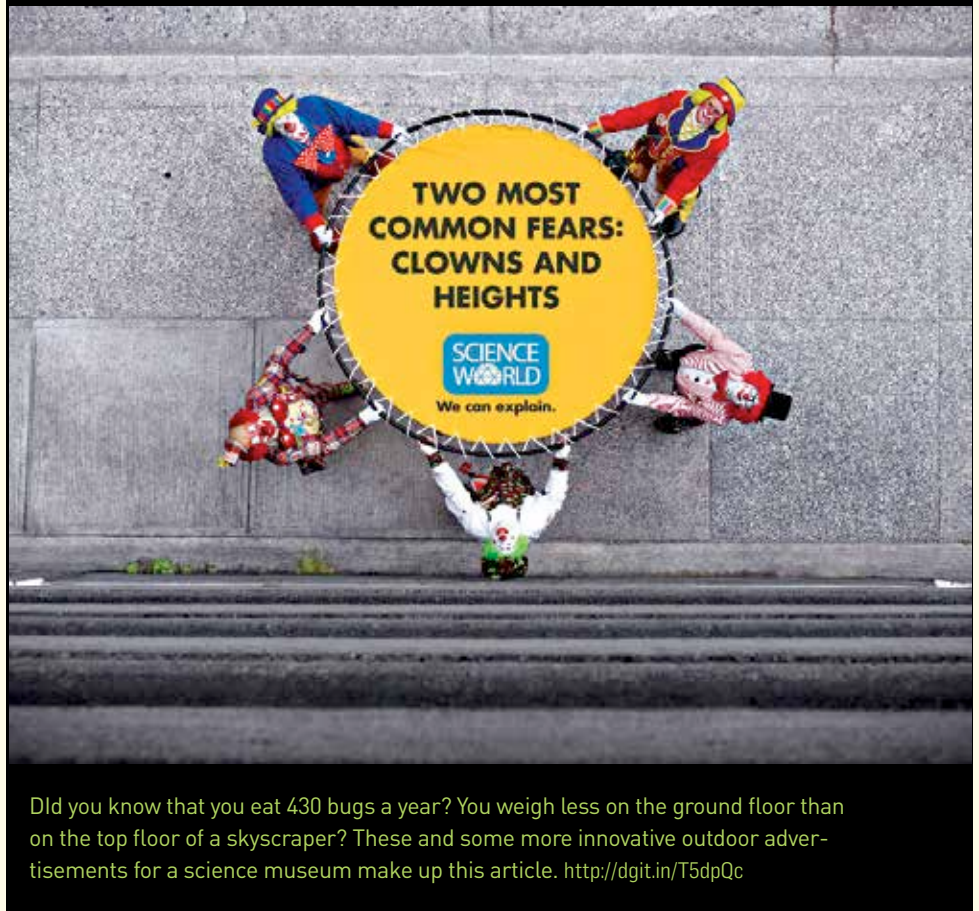
WORST TECH PREDICTIONS EVER!

We all know the (in)famous "640kb ought to be enough for anyone" quote attributed allegedly to Bill Gates. But this Scientific American article compiles a whole list of such stupid predictions by some really famous personalities, including Bill Gates himself. Read on:

<http://dgit.in/Umlki8>

(Buzzfeed Corner)

INNOVATIVE SCIENCE MUSEUM ADS



Did you know that you eat 430 bugs a year? You weigh less on the ground floor than on the top floor of a skyscraper? These and some more innovative outdoor advertisements for a science museum make up this article. <http://dgit.in/T5dpQc>



Hilarious Facebook statuses

People continue to amaze. Here is a collection of the funniest and probably the dumbest Facebook status messages, pictures, group names and conversations we've ever come across on the popular social network. Don't laugh too hard, you've been warned.

<http://dgit.in/T8oif2>



People who make iPhone, are people!

This article takes a funny look at how a Western journalist expressed surprise at what may seem like the most normal thing to do. Here's one gem, "It turns out that most of the Foxconn workers sitting and reading - actual papers!" As opposed to?

<http://dgit.in/X649Rq>



Why Surface can't afford to fail

Buzzfeed's Matt Buchanan gives a lowdown on the exclusive Surface hands-on time, interaction with the Surface team behind the design philosophy of the tablet and ultimately why Microsoft will have to succeed with this tablet launch.

<http://dgit.in/TcuQTo>

WINDOWS 8 CONFUSION



So Windows 8 has launched but you are confused by

the sheer options available - laptop, slate, tablet, Windows 8, Windows RT, Windows Phone 8. This article tries to demystify all the hullabalo around Windows 8.

<http://dgit.in/RHUUJK>

WHAT IS WINDOWS RT?

When Windows launched last month, you may have come across this term Windows RT a lot in recent times. Is it the same as Windows 8? Is it any different? This FAQ answers those questions and gives a complete lowdown on Windows RT. Read on to understand its significance.

<http://dgit.in/TDC52T>

GOOGLE'S DATA CENTRES



You probably use a lot of their products while on the web. Now have a look at Google's data centre in this photo-essay. You can even check the data centre's using Google Street View.

<http://dgit.in/Sfu7jv>

TROLLING PHONE SCAMMERS

There is a thriving community of scammers who pose as "Windows Technical Support" guys, and victimize unsuspecting folk, claiming to provide solutions - and asking for cash. Here are people who trolled these scammers and exposed them.

<http://dgit.in/RT5A0v>

Clean, limitless fusion power could arrive sooner than expected

It's worth investing a few billion dollars in clean, limitless power

- By Sebastian Anthony



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Good news, denizens of Earth: If the findings from two premier research labs are to be believed, commercial nuclear fusion is feasible — and could arrive sooner than expected.

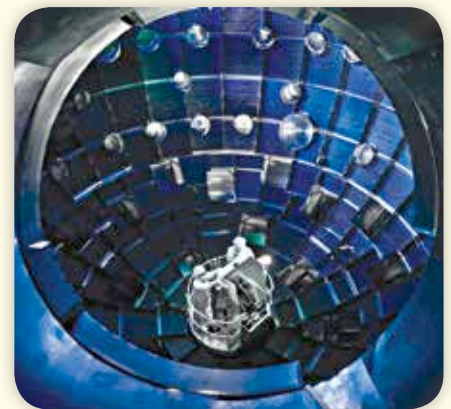
The first breakthrough comes from Sandia National Laboratories (the same engineers who brought us the fanless heatsink). At SNL, a research team has been working on a new way of creating fusion called magnetized liner inertial fusion (MagLIF). This approach is quite similar to the National Ignition Facility at the LLNL in California, where they fuse deuterium and tritium (hydrogen isotopes) by crushing and heating the fuel with 500 trillion watts of laser power. Instead of lasers, MagLIF uses a massive magnetic pulse (26 million amps), created by Sandia's Z Machine (a huge X-ray generator), to crush a small cylinder containing the hydrogen fuel. Through various optimizations, the researchers discovered a MagLIF setup that almost breaks even (i.e. it almost produces more thermal energy than the electrical energy required to begin the fusion reaction).

Probably more significant is news from the Joint European Torus (JET), a magnetic confinement fusion facility in the UK. JET is very similar to the ITER nuclear fusion reactor, an international project which is

being built in the south of France. Whereas NIF and Sandia create an instantaneous fusion reaction using heat and pressure, ITER and JET confine the fusing plasma for a much longer duration using strong magnetic fields, and are thus more inclined towards the steady production of electricity. JET's breakthrough was the installation of a new beryllium-lined wall and tungsten floor inside the tokamak — the doughnut-shaped inner vessel that confines 11-million-degrees-Celsius plasma (pictured above).

Carbon is the conventional tokamak lining (and the lining that had been chosen for the first iteration of ITER) but now it seems the beryllium-tungsten combo significantly improves the quality of the plasma. Hopefully this information will allow ITER to skip the carbon tokamak and jump straight to beryllium-tungsten, shaving years and millions of dollars off the project.

Moving forward, JET will actually try full-blown fusion with the optimum mix of deuterium and tritium (16 megawatts, for less than a second). At this point, JET is prac-



tically an ITER testbed, so its results from the next year or two will have a large impact on the construction of ITER's tokamak, which should be completed by 2019.

Before today, magnetic confinement fusion was generally considered to be more mature and efficient than inertial confinement fusion — but Sandia's new approach might change that. ITER is one of the world's largest ongoing engineering projects (it's expected to cost around \$20 billion), and yet critics are quick to point out that we still don't know if it will actually work. ITER isn't expected to fuse D-T fuel until 2027 (producing 500 megawatts for up to 1,000 seconds) — and an awful lot can happen in 15 years. Still, the main thing is that we're actually working on fusion power — when we're talking about limitless, clean power, it's probably worth investing a few billion dollars, even if it doesn't work out.

<http://dgit.in/RTeNX4>



BACK IN THE LINE

This hilarious and extremely catchy parody features

a fake Steve Jobs and Tim Cook. Here's a sampler: "You just bought our gadgets, buy some more; You're already hangin' outside at the store; Pull out your quarters, nickels and dimes; And get your gadget-lovin a** back in the line" <http://dgit.in/UwxNju>

NOT A RIGHT TIME FOR SURFACE PHONE

ArsTechnica argues why it is not the right time for Microsoft to come out with their own phone at the moment as Windows Phone OEMs are raising the bar with new launches and they might feel threatened if Windows outs Surface Phone now. <http://dgit.in/TDVSPz>

BREAKING THE SURFACE

At an exclusive press event in Redmond,

Washington, Microsoft has given a handful of journalists an insider's view on how the Surface tablet was conceived, designed, tested, and manufactured. Clue in all the details below. <http://dgit.in/PnQB3e>

THE TECH BEHIND THE STRATOSPHERIC SKYDIVE

From the difficulties in getting up there, to breathing,

to re-entry, going supersonic and everything in between. Read on to find out the challenges faced and the tech that made Felix Baumgartner's jump from the edge of space possible. <http://dgit.in/XQvtmc>

How DRM will infest the 3D printing revolution

Copyright law is a complicated beast, and it's not traditionally applicable to objects. But how will it affect the future of 3D printing?

- By Ryan Whitwam



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While you were busy getting yourself all worked up and declaring 3D printing the beginning of a new age, one of the most maligned figures in modern patent law is preparing to rain on your parade. Nathan Myhrvold, former Microsoft CTO and founder of patent holder Intellectual Ventures, has managed to get an expansive patent on 3D printing DRM. That 3D printing revolution we've been hoping for just got a lot trickier.

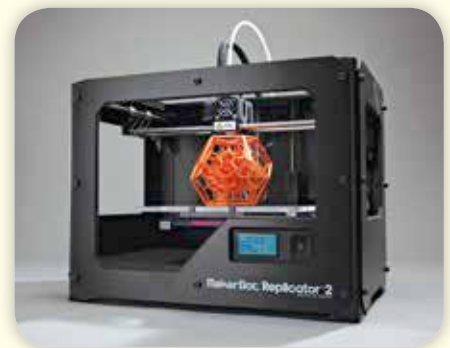
The system envisioned by Myhrvold would be used to prevent users of 3D printers from abusing "object production rights." The idea is that you would load a digital file into your computer and before any printing could take place, you would have to connect to some remote server that checks to make sure you have authorization to print the object. If this sounds familiar, that's because it's basically what happened to music in the wake of Napster.

Copyright law is a complicated beast, and it's not traditionally applicable to objects. However, a new device, invention, or design can be patented. This is where Intellectual Ventures (IV) makes its money, and probably why it's interested in this kind of DRM. The company acquires patents on various technologies and inventions, then sues those

it believes to be infringing. This has led to many calling IV a patent troll, and they probably have a point.

So how do we get from where we are now to some sort of dystopian future where your printer is tattling on you to the copyright cops? There will be two forces pushing us that way, the first being the association with P2P (peer-to-peer file sharing). As increasing fidelity is achieved in 3D printing, the companies that sell you printers will more often be compared to those that provide P2P software. That's the primary legal headache these companies face. The makers of several popular file sharing apps have ended up in court, and I wouldn't be surprised to see something similar to happen to the MakerBot folks someday.

The second way 3D printing will see push-back is a little more ominous. There are already people out there investigating the feasibility of 3D printing gun parts. It might not be doable now, but it will be one day. Before that happens, simpler weapons like "brass knuckles" made out of super-hard plastic could worry governments where such



items are illegal. Weapon laws are not about intellectual property, but they get us to the same place — restricted use of 3D printing. Copyright concerns can and will piggyback on this issue.

The sellers of 3D printers probably won't be directly required by law to implement restrictions, but the deluge of lawsuits over printed guns and patented inventions might drive them to give in. Even Google had no choice but to implement harsh automated copyright detection algorithms on YouTube to limit its liability. We've seen these automated systems fail time and time again, though.

Every DRM scheme implemented so far has been cracked in some way. It's really a cruel joke on the average user — while DRM stymies their digital life, those that actually might be engaging in shady behavior will be able to print all the patented objects they want. DRM won't actually solve any problems — it never does — but it might be an inevitable part of 3D printing's future.

<http://dgit.in/Vz6giM>



VSAUCE 2

A channel filled with some of the quirkiest, weirdest, craziest stuff



on the internet. Did you know that ants are like the internet or that sound can levitate objects? Seriously, yes. Learn about all this and more here, once you visit the website it's hard not to bookmark it. Don't forget to check out their mindblow series. Literally mind-blowing stuff!

<http://dgit.in/vSauce2>

(QR Code)



For a list of all the links from this section, head over to <http://dgit.in/WorldViewNov2012> Or point your phone to the QR code above

(PRODUCT LAUNCHES)

SAMSUNG CHROMEBOOK



Samsung just released the Chromebook, Google's Chrome OS sporting notebook. It has an 11.6-inch screen, an Exynos 5 dual processor, a pair of USB ports, an HDMI port and around 2 GB of RAM. Great for anyone who works completely on the cloud. It is priced at USD 249.

IPAD MINI



Just before packing off the magazine to print, we got a chance to see the iPad Mini unveiled. With a 7.9 inch 1024x768 IPS display, dual band wireless, and a supposedly manageable screen size, this latest Apple newbie will cost you \$329 for the basic version.

NIKON 1 V2



Nikon announced the successor to the V1 mirrorless camera with the V2. The Nikon 1 V2 sports a 14.2MP CMOS sensor, an ISO range from 100 - 6400, an Expeed 3A image processor and an advanced hybrid AF system. With a 10-30mm lens and will sell next month at 800 GBP.

WORDJUMBLE

ABSOLUTE TIMEPASS

H	K	W	H	O	M	E	W	O	R	L	D	J	J	Q	J	D	F
C	Y	S	T	A	R	C	R	A	F	T	O	P	Z	E	Y	B	I
I	C	O	M	M	A	N	D	O	S	G	Y	U	N	J	C	B	L
T	R	O	U	Y	H	F	Y	D	U	I	N	V	S	X	A	O	I
E	Z	L	R	H	P	Y	A	O	V	R	X	G	C	T	R	B	O
R	G	B	U	G	D	O	L	G	A	L	N	B	T	I	M	W	C
E	S	A	S	Z	R	A	W	P	I	I	H	L	Y	S	A	U	E
H	T	I	N	Y	H	H	T	O	M	M	E	A	V	R	G	R	R
J	K	D	K	K	B	O	N	M	D	Z	O	G	Z	R	E	H	S
I	M	S	M	U	R	K	E	R	O	D	S	O	I	B	D	W	G
B	Z	U	H	I	I	L	T	N	N	I	N	Q	D	S	D	R	N
Q	Q	O	V	N	C	R	E	U	G	E	V	R	M	Q	O	K	S
Q	H	Y	G	Y	L	E	S	O	O	Z	D	L	G	K	N	H	V

In this word jumble there are names of 15 classic games we've included in our Omega DVD. Can you find them all?

Top 3 YouTube Picks

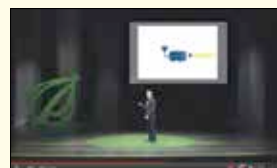
Make sure your boss doesn't catch you goofing off with one of these playing on your screen



SNL Take on iPhone 5
Duration: 05 min 39 secs
What you get when you mash up Saturday Night Live, tech bloggers and iPhone 5 factory.
<http://dgit.in/RK6UmR>



Henri, Le Chat Noir
Duration: 02 min 29 secs
Take a really fat cat, film it in extreme close ups, philosophising about life. That's Henri.
<http://dgit.in/SagAaP>



Kill two birds with one stone
Duration: 03 min 32 secs
Satirical website The Onion gives us its take on TED Talks. A funny take on tech.
<http://dgit.in/T5cr6z>



Interview with
Sarim Aziz, Dev
Relations – RIM
For the complete
interview visit:
dvwx.in/PgOdr3

Facebook releases new SDK for Android



Facebook announced a major push to its Android SDK by releasing Facebook SDK 3.0 beta for Android. Accompanying this release is the new Android Dev Center which enables developers to get better access to tools and documentation regarding development on Android. The Facebook developers blog mentioned new features such as new Native UI

controls which includes Friend Picker, Places Picker, Profile Picture Control and Login Control. It also mentions simplified session management, better Facebook API support and mobile install measurement among other highlights. Simplified session management includes tools to ease the authentication and authorisation process. The Facebook blog

adds that “the modular design handles details you don’t care about while giving you more control when you need it.” This will easily help determine whether the user is logged in or not. Better Facebook API support now allows developers to batch Facebook API calls, makes MVC style programming easier and also includes much better JSON manipulation. The new mobile install ads product in conjunction with the Facebook SDK enables measurement of clicks and installs from mobile app install ads. This feature is certainly one of the ways that will allow Facebook to churn money from its mobile platform, something it has been pressurised to do for a long time.

The new Android Developer Center includes a new Getting Started Guide, Concepts, How-to’s, Tutorials and other detailed reference material which definitely doesn’t look like a rehash of the old one and should be a great source of new information to developers. >

Read the entire article at <http://dvwx.in/TiLDWD> and share your comments.

*footer

*Plasma Active 3 now available

>>It seems like there is a release of a new version of a tablet OS nearly every other week. Just goes to show how important and popular this form factor is turning out to be. The latest OS to release is Plasma Active 3, a tablet-centric OS in development by the KDE community, known to all open source enthusiasts and adapters.

dvwx.in/TiL3In



*Microsoft’s approach for Windows

>>Windows 8 signals a jumbo change, which will need a major exertion in rewriting existing applications. Microsoft is now taking a new approach.

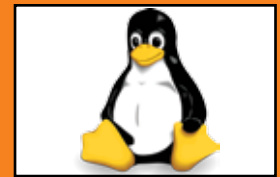
dvwx.in/QkJ9C2

*Mozilla’s Marketplace on Aurora for Android

>>Those who have been following Mozilla’s recent activity will know that it has been working on creating an open web app ecosystem ever since Google announced its Chrome Web Store and made it Chrome-only. Cross-browser compatibility, after all, is a core principle of the open web. Mozilla Marketplace allows you to offer free or paid web applications.

dvwx.in/TiQmI3

*side panel



*Linux Foundation on secure boot

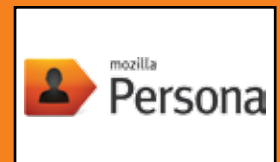
>>Secure Boot, as its name suggests, is a security feature that—if supported by hardware—can make the boot process much less vulnerable to viruses and other malware. Read:

<http://dvwx.in/TiKEWn>

*Firefox Metro for Windows 8 available

>>You can now download a special edition of Firefox, and get access to the Metro version directly. Read:

<http://dvwx.in/SXFYUUV>



*Mozilla’s Persona goes beta

>>Tired of having to remember dozens of passwords? Move over autofills. In Persona, Mozilla just might have the solution for you. Read:

<http://dvwx.in/PLXOAX>



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The state of Python in India

>>Python is popular in developer circles, primarily due to its adaption by companies such as Google among several others; and is now gaining momentum in India as well> by Noufal Ibrahim

Way back in 1991, Guido van Rossum developed what became known as Python, a programming language. It grew from a small project into a first class programming language that powers everything from modern websites to games to scientific computing and even NASA projects. Although initially used in prototyping and toy projects for tinkerers, it now commands attention from many companies that actually look for it on a resume.

The Python reference implementation is available as free software under a liberal licence and the overall direction of the language is guided by a community process. This lends itself to the creation of communities of enthusiasts that support and help in the development of the language. Being a country with a rich IT culture, many Python communities have grown and flourished in India. The language was designed with the notion that code has to be read more than written. Python code is English-like and has often been called “executable pseudo code”. This makes it ideal for newcomers as well as people in various fields that aren’t professional programmers.

Python’s success in the scientific / computing community is an example of this. The dynamic nature of the language enables quick turnarounds and increases programmer productivity. The huge standard library makes it very easy to get started with almost any kind of application. Add to all this a thriving 20-year old community of enthusiasts and developers and you have all the elements needed to make a successful, reliable and high quality open source project. Python is also extendable in C making it a very nice “glue language”. It is possible to write a little C extension for Python that can allow it to, for example, interface with a piece of hardware that can then be controlled from within the language console. Just like it is extendable, Python can be embedded. This means that Python can be used as a scripting interface for a larger application. Many graphical applications implement their performance intensive parts in C and provide a Python scripting interface that can be used to extend the application.

Emergence as a powerful language

While initially, it was only used by programmers for their personal projects, it has taken root in the industry and a quick search on popular job boards for Python displays numerous positions available. The short development time and dynamic nature of the language

is very attractive to startups and such companies for whom rapid turnarounds are important. Larger companies rely on Python for their internal infrastructure and some even ship applications written in Python to their customers.

Adaption by the industry

Google relies on Python heavily for many of its internal infrastructure projects and provides Google App Engine which is a PaaS product that supports three languages, one of which is Python. In fact, Google employs the creator of Python himself, as well as many other luminaries of the Python community. ZeOmega is another company with a long history of involvement with Python technically, as well as socially. They ship a number of products written in



Get in touch with the Python community by joining the user group in your city

Python and have backed the community and its conferences for a long time now. Entthought, with its offices in Mumbai ships a suite of scientific computing products mostly written in Python.

Python in academia

Perhaps the most widespread commercial use of Python, in India anyway, is for writing web apps. There are a number of companies, large and small, in India who have public facing and internal web-based tools that are written using one of the many Python web frameworks out there. On the academic side, there’s been an increasing interest in using Python as a first language for new programmers. Various engineering colleges in Bangalore such as MSRIT and R.V.

College of Engineering teach Python either as part of the official curriculum or as a supplementary skill. Many students from India participate in Google Summer of Code (GSoC) projects related to Python and this number is growing.

Senthil Kumaran, one of the Python core developers from India who entered the project via GSoC talks about his experience – “Being a part of an Open Source project, especially a widely used one like Python has been an amazing experience. It has taught me many things, most important of which is we work not for competition, money or fame, but for enjoyment. It also takes away a good amount of time from you and you are never short of anything to do. Serious software engineering as a hobby and software as a craft is something many of us from India are yet to come to grasp with, this is teaching me exactly that.”

Another prominent example of the role of Python in education is the FOSSEE project sponsored by the Ministry of Human Resources and Development. It aims to bring programming skills to scientific professionals to do their work and the language of choice is Python.

The Indian Python community

There are active user groups in Pune, Bangalore, Chennai, the NCR region and many other large Indian cities. The Bangalore group, which is one of the oldest, was created in 2007 or so and has met semi regularly since then at various times. Anand Pillai, who was instrumental in starting the initial Bangalore Python user group or “Bangpypers” as it is called, is still an active member of the community. The community grew over the years and in 2009, the first PyCon in India was held at the Indian Institute of Science in Bangalore.

The Python Software Foundation

The Python Software Foundation is a non-profit organisation established in the United States for advancing open source technology related to the Python language. One of its activities is the organisation of a worldwide conference for all Python developers called “PyCon”. Regional conferences have sprouted around the world catering to local needs and in 2009, the first one was held in India. This was conducted in consultation with the PSF and while small, kick started PyCon India.

The conference has grown since then. 2010 saw the event again in Bangalore at MSRTI and in 2011, it was conducted in Pune. In 2012, it moved back to Bangalore and was conducted at Dharmaram college. Over the years, the conference grew and keynote speakers who were part of the core Python developer group were invited from abroad. Tutorials were added to the main

*pointers

>>Nuggets of cool code at work



*Bill Gates on Windows 8, WP8 and Surface

>>Microsoft's Chairman Bill Gates chats about Windows 8, Windows Phone 8, Natural User Interface and Microsoft Surface.

<http://dvwX.in/PNSQgh>



*jQuery at LinkedIn

>>Senior Web Developer at LinkedIn, Kiro Risk, talks about jQuery and how it has helped the powerful professional network provide a better experience to its users.

<http://dvwX.in/XNFVel>



*Create a WordPress theme from scratch

>>This video shows you how to take a regular HTML page and turn it into a very simple WordPress Theme Package that you can use on any WordPress site using Dreamweaver.

<http://dvwX.in/VlqIhm>



*BB10 Hands on

>>Here's a closer look at Research in Motion's latest mobile operating system. This is undoubtedly the most important release for the Canadian company.

<http://dvwX.in/TPvoeu>

conference and the number of delegates as well as sponsors grew over the years. It is a volunteer driven event that the Indian Python community looks forward to every year.

The Python Software Society of India

To facilitate PyCon India and to spearhead work that takes Python and related technologies forward in India, the Python Software Society of India was formed shortly after the 2009 conference. It is a non-profit organisation that oversees the conference and takes care of finances and book keeping not much unlike the PSF worldwide. It has recently instituted an award for students active in the Python community in honour of the first President of the society, Kenneth Gonsalves, who passed away earlier this year.

Join the Indian Python community

While there is no real formal “community” as such, participating in the user group meetings and helping out with PyCon India are a great way to get to know the larger Python community. It can be a rewarding technical and social experience. We'd love to have you! The official PyCon India mailing list is at <http://mail.python.org/mailman/listinfo/inpycon>. Signing up will let you take part in the discussions leading to the conference. Calls for volunteers and other such things are made on the list. Local user groups have their own mailing lists where meetups are organised. Joining the one in the city closest to you is a good way to meet local Pythonistas. If your city doesn't have one, considering starting one yourself.

- ChennaiPy (Chennai): <https://groups.google.com/forum/?fromgroups#!forum/chennaipy>
- Bangpypers (Bangalore): <http://mail.python.org/mailman/listinfo/bangpypers>
- PythonPune (Pune): <https://groups.google.com/forum/?fromgroups#!forum/PythonPune>
- NCR-Python.in (NCR): <http://mail.python.org/mailman/listinfo/ncr-python.in>

The community section of the official website of the Python programming language is at <http://python.org/community/> and you might find links there that are relevant as well. >

Read the original article online on devworx.

Visit www.devworx.in

*Author

>>Noufal Ibrahim is a freelance programmer and trainer based out of Bangalore, currently working for the Internet Archive. He was the founder of PyCon India and the organiser of the first two conferences. His personal website is at <http://nibrahim.net.in>. He also runs the <http://emacsmovies.org> website. Outside of programming, he's a self proclaimed connoisseur of kitsch, bibliophile, opponent of the serial comma and an amateur calligrapher.



>>“BB10 is a new beginning for BlackBerry”>>

>>Sarim Aziz, Developer Relations, Research in Motion

Could you shed some light on BlackBerry 10?

I look at it as a new beginning for BlackBerry. From the ground up, it's an absolutely new mobile computing platform. At the same time, it's built on an industry standard (QNX) real-time OS. It's fundamentally changing the way RIM and BlackBerry is perceived. It's a completely new experience from a mobile computing standpoint.

Why a QNX-based OS instead of Linux?

Oh yes, there are plenty of technical as well as other reasons for choosing QNX over Linux to base our new operating system. Although similar to UNIX, QNX is a real time operating system and is a micro kernel. What that means is that it is able to support distributed processing. As hardware changes, you don't have to rewrite the whole OS. It's used in mission critical operations already for more than a decade including internet routers, mission critical systems, medical devices and space stations have been using QNX. Even car dashboards have been using QNX.

What are the advantages in keeping BlackBerry closed source?

RIM has taken a balanced approach. In the mobile ecosystem, you have two extremes. One one hand, iOS is absolutely closed, while the other extreme is Android which is causing terrible fragmentation. It is virtually impossible to test on all devices. With BB10, while the platform itself isn't open source, we're the most open source friendly platform. For example, all Android 2.3.3. apps absolutely fine on QNX. >

Read the entire interview online, at www.devworx.in and share your comments.

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>>You've been following devworx every month as you enjoy your favourite technology magazine. With your support, devworx has been on a steady rise, and is discovering its identity with you – the reader – the developer. While on one hand, it's an extension of your most trusted brand – Digit; on the other, it's tailored for application developers in India.

Whether you're an app development company based out of India, an application developer, or simply an enthusiast – you are nonetheless, a catalyst in India's growth as a software development powerhouse. Be it the Large Hadron Collider at CERN, or the Curiosity Explorer currently roving across Martian terrain,

Indian technologists and developers are a very close part of cutting edge innovation across the globe. We want to help you innovate!

devworx is an attempt to recognise such stories in software innovation, early on! Irrespective of where you stand in the scenario illustrated, we invite you to be a part of us. Whether you're an established app development company, a policy maker influencing the mobile ecosystem, or an individual developer, there's a lot to share with the community. We eagerly want to hear your story. Write to us today! Visit www.devworx.in and go to the Contact us and Careers pages for further information. You can also email us at editor@devworx.in.

***open source**



Aptana Studio

>> Aptana Studio is an open source IDE for building Ajax web applications. Based on Eclipse, it supports JavaScript, HTML, DOM and CSS with code-completion, outlining, JavaScript debugging, error and warning notifications and integrated documentation.

<http://dvwx.in/X8zNOK>



SproutCore

>> SproutCore is an open-source JavaScript framework that allows developers to create web applications with advanced capabilities and a user experience comparable to that of desktop applications. SproutCore is available under the MIT License.

<http://dvwx.in/Ripd3E>



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Hybrid future

One-on-One with Ryusuke Kashiwabara, Toshiba Storage

Toshiba is aggressively getting into the external hard drive market in India and soon plans to launch hybrid drives in the near future. We had a chance to speak to Mr. **Ryusuke Kashiwabara**, Marketing Head (ASEAN), Toshiba Storage, who told us about the upcoming Toshiba Storage products and a general overview of where the storage industry is headed

Nimish Sawant

nimish.sawant@thinkdigit.com

What is your purpose of visiting India?

We have been doing business in India, but recently we have increased our product portfolio to external storage as well as 3.5-inch desktop drives. So the purpose is to visit our customers and promote our products. Also talk to the media and promote products to your readers.

Since the Thailand floods, the prices of hard drives skyrocketed. They have reduced for sure but not to the levels at which they were before the floods. So when do you see that happening?

Before the floods we had five HDD vendors, but post floods there are just three: Seagate, WD and Toshiba. So the pricing situation is different from what it was in the past. Of course due to the increase in areal density of the drive, the price will go down year-by-year or quarter-by-quarter. But that reduction will not be a sharp decline, but it will be more gradual.

Could you give us the advantages of having both the HDD and NAND memory



Ryusuke Kashiwabara, Marketing Head (ASEAN), Toshiba Storage

divisions within the same company. How does that help you?

Customers expectations are very high. We are the only one who has NAND, HDD and SSD. So even though the HDD market keeps on growing, the growth of SSD and NAND flash is higher than HDD. So the one thing that we are focussing on right now are our hybrid drives, which integrate NAND flash and HDD tech together. Recently we announced a hybrid drive. That is one of our core future products that we want to push.

Five years down the line, between these four options, which do you think will be at the top according to you: HDD, hybrid drives, SSDs and cloud storage?

If you talk about total units of shipment for HDD or SSD, cloud itself is not going to be enough because the number of HDDs shipped to those cloud data centres is not as great as the number we ship to laptop or desktop consumers. The HDD itself of one capacity is quite large for the data centre. But if you look at total capacity, the cloud itself is already quite large. Over a five year

period, the cloud storage capacity will be much bigger than what notebook, desktop or tablet will have. A large amount of data will be stored in the cloud. We see that trend and are preparing for that. Capacity wise definitely cloud, but unit-wise it will be on the consumer side. Question is will it be HDD, SSD or Hybrid drive? We want to strongly promote the hybrid drive for that segment because the people by now are very used to using tablets and smartphones. They give you quick response, quick boot times. With traditional hard drives, you have to wait comparatively very long. So speed of is the essence. SSD is very fast, but cost itself is still high and will be high in the future if you see the cost per GB as compared to HDD.

How soon will the Toshiba hybrid drives be available in India?

We are targeting the end of this year. The purpose of this generation of hybrid drives is to promote technology itself. We want to promote the technology in the first generation and in the second generation we want to expand to all possible channels and OEMs.

What is your take on Thunderbolt external drives which are limited due to the spinning drives inside?

We also considered Thunderbolt ports, but using it for external drives does not make sense. If local PC storage has SSD and even the external storage is SSD level, then maybe using Thunderbolt with its fast interface will make sense. But at this moment because of the internal HDD performance, we have no plan to release that kind of product in our external HDD portfolio. **d**

READ MORE AT: dgit.in/toshiba_d12

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Authentication gateway

The authentication gateways in many VPNs can also be effectively used as a firewall. If it's capable, it may be better to use simply the VPN's firewall

Setup help

Setting up a VPN is often very vendor-specific. However, many have web-based user interfaces that allow simple installation guides and wizards

VPN 101

Basics of setting up for Telecommuting

Spandan Sharma

readerletters@thinkdigit.com

Imagine you've finally managed to take a day off from work, and are at a long-awaited lunch with your friends. All of a sudden your boss calls you, and says that you have look at some data stored on the office network and mail a short summary to him. Right. Now. How do you view data stored on your office computer, or on a fileserver in office? One option is by keeping such data shared on a cloud-based service like Dropbox, but they can be quite insecure and vulnerable. In such a scenario, what you really need is a Virtual Private Network (VPN).

A VPN is a technology for using the internet or another intermediate network to connect computers to isolated remote computer networks that would otherwise be inaccessible. A VPN can provide varying levels of security so that data sent through the VPN connection can remain isolated from other access points on the intermediate network, either through the use of a dedicated connection from "one end" of the VPN to the other, or through encryption. VPNs are also capable of connecting multiple networks together, apart from connecting individual users to a remote network.

If you're part of a small corporate setup that has employees who need to frequently work while travelling, or work-from-home, you need to invest in a solution that lets such employees connect to the office network and access data and resources on it via a secure connection. In case you have a really small setup where only one or two people need to connect



VPNs can greatly improve your employees' accessibility and portability

to a single company computer, you can use remote desktop access software like GoToMyPC or LogMeIn. However, if you need multiple remote connections, a full VPN may be a better idea.

Protocols to be followed

Any VPN can follow one of several protocols available, or can even opt for a "hybrid protocol", combining two or more elements from two different protocols. We'll look at three of the biggest, and most commonly used protocols for VPNs today:

1. **PPTP:** Point-to-Point Tunnelling Protocol (PPTP) was first implemented by Microsoft in Windows 95, and VPNs for it have been around ever since. All Windows versions since Windows 95 have default support for PPTP, as do Mac OS X and some smartphones and VPN devices. However, this protocol

has severe security issues, and hence its use is gradually being phased out everywhere. So, while PPTP is still available, and will mostly be available for your device, choosing other more secure protocols may be a better choice.

2. **IPSec:** Internet Protocol Security (IPSec) was created by the Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF) and is a standard that encrypts all network traffic at a low level. IPSec is one of the most commonly used protocols by many vendors, like Cisco, Juniper, and Microsoft, and even by open-source projects, like KAME and Openswan, as the foundation for their VPN software. The greatest advantage of IPSec is that it requires all remote users to go through two levels of verification before they are granted access – a basic authentication to connect to the

Mobile VPNs

"Mobile" VPNs can be used where the endpoint of the network is not fixed to a single IP address, like cellular data networks or Wi-Fi access points

network, and another authentication to access data on the network. This helps in maintaining security for sensitive data. Some operating systems like the Mac OS X come pre-configured to connect with IPSec VPNs, while most Windows systems rely on third-party software for the same. Many mobile devices also support generic IPSec connectivity.

3. **SSL:** Secure Socket Layer VPN (SSL-VPN) (also known as Secure Socket Tunneling Protocol (SSTP)) is a protocol that allows for the creation of "clientless" VPNs. This means that the remote computer does not need to have a client pre-installed to login to



SSL VPNs can help you access your network over the internet, without the need for a pre-installed client

the VPN. The user can simply use the Internet or a similar intermediate network to connect to the remote network, where they will have to provide some form of authentication to access the data. Due to the high amount of portability and accessibility offered by this protocol, it has become quite popular, although it often sacrifices security due to the lack of an extra layer of authentication, as seen in IPSec.

How do I know which VPN software to use?

As with most things related to the internet and software, googling "VPN software" can give you a bewildering array of options to pick from. There are many free as well as paid VPN software services available; although, if you're a Small Office or Home Office (SOHO) setup, a free service that fulfils all your basic requirements will do just fine. Below, we have listed some of the more popular and recommended software for setting up your very own VPN:

Site-to-site VPN

Apart from remote access, VPNs can also be used to establish site-to-site networks, which are used to connect two or more networks together

Smart SoHo

1. **Teamviewer 5:** If you're looking for remote control possibilities with a lot of features, the ability to share access to desktop remotely, and get presentation software in the package, Teamviewer 5 is both the simplest and the most powerful solution. Businesses and corporate setups will have to pay a bit upfront, but individuals can get it for free. It's a great choice either way.

2. **Wippien:** Wippien is a very basic but handy VPN software. Ideal for those whose network needs are simply for sharing files and content and multiplayer gaming with friends.
3. **LogMeIn Hamachi:** One of the best business-focussed VPN clients out there. It's a highly comprehensive package with a clear focus towards setting up VPNs for businesses with industry-grade security. Hamachi supports encryption of data, compression of multiple files and a surprisingly customizable chat option. The client itself is very handy and user-friendly, however, only the basic version is free, and the user has the option of buying additional add-on features at his/her discretion.

4. **OpenVPN Shield Exchange:** OpenVPN offers a safe and secure connection via the internet. It is quite affordable, and offers clients for both Windows and Mac platforms. However, the service is free only for the first 100 MB of usage, and users have complained that it occasionally slows down browsing speeds. But overall, an option worth looking at to get a basic idea of whether or not a VPN is useful to your company's needs.




Hamachi is one of the most popular VPN clients

their advantages; however, some may be more advantageous to you than others. Or, as mentioned earlier, you might end up realizing that a "hybrid VPN" of two or more different VPNs suits your needs more. Your choice of VPN should be based on the requirements that drove you to get a VPN in the first place – if you deal with highly sensitive data that needs more security when sending to remote machines, perhaps

an IPSec based VPN is a better choice, like the one offered by Cisco Small Business RV Series Routers. These routers utilize Cisco's proprietary Quick VPN software that is compatible with Windows 7 (64-bit and 32-bit), Windows XP (32-bit) and Windows Vista (64-bit and 32-bit). On the other hand, if you're not worried about security, but have many employees constantly on-the-move and portability is an issue, an SSL-based VPN, like the RV220W Wireless Network Security Firewall, will be more useful. Pick wisely, and make the right choice to meet your needs.

Another important thing to remember while setting up a VPN is to ensure that you have sufficient bandwidth to support the VPN and its remote users. If your upload speed is slow because of limited bandwidth, the remote users will see a significant drop in their network speed.

Last but not the least, be sure that the VPN you choose supports all the operating systems used by the machines on your VPN. Certain VPNs support only certain operating systems, so be sure to pick one that suits the requirements of all your VPN's users.

Setting up a basic VPN is fairly easy, and you can set one up for your small business even without owning a server. And once set up, all your data is (reasonably) secured, and you no longer have to worry about other people spying on the data sent to and from your network. Even the simplest VPN can give you remote security equivalent to the one of far larger and more well-equipped companies, and is a great investment. Go for it! 

Stuff to remember

Many users are confused by the variety of options available when choosing a VPN, and end up picking one based on its popularity and reviews. However, a more important question than "Which VPN is better?" is "Which VPN is better suited for my business's needs?" All VPNs have

A CLOSER LOOK AT ULTRABOOKS

An introduction to NFC

You may have heard a lot about NFC recently, with nearly every new smartphone touting NFC capability. Even so there is a lot of confusion about what exactly NFC is, what it is capable of and what it means in terms of capability. You will hear a lot about making payments and sharing photos, and those are good uses, but an understanding of the underlying technology will greatly help you in recognising other possible uses for this feature.

It might sound like NFC is some recent development that only came about in the past one or two years, but this is far from the truth. NFC is a very old technology; in fact the first phone to feature NFC was actually released way back in 2006, it was the Nokia 6131, a clamshell phone.

While NFC has been seeing a splurge of interest of late, the technology was defined as far back as 2004 by the NFC Forum founded by Nokia, Philips and Sony. Now of course the NFC Forum has many more members.

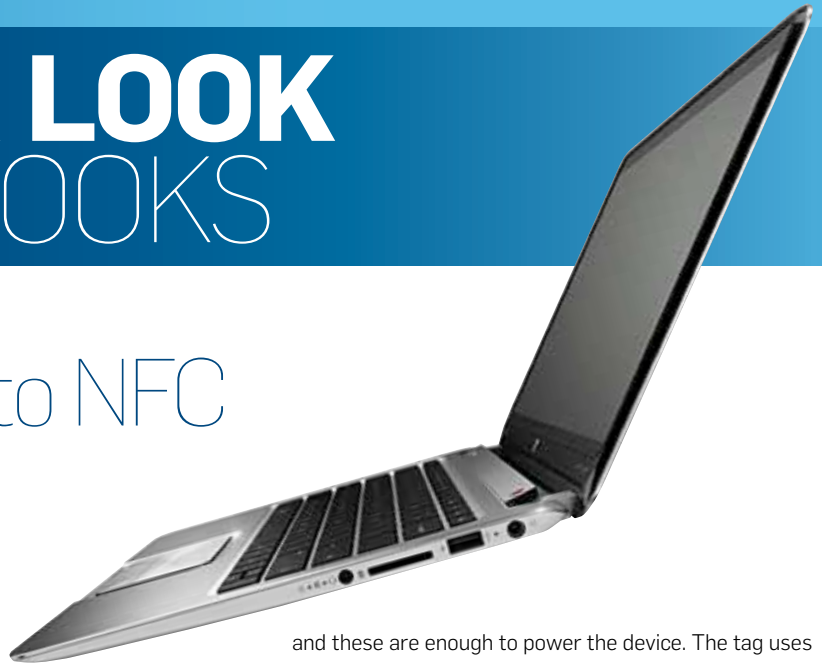
So now you know NFC isn't some magical new technology, it is actually quite old. But what is it?

WHAT IS NFC?

First of all NFC, since we haven't clarified that already, NFC stands for Near Field Communication. It is a technology for wireless transfer of data between two devices. If that sounds a lot like Blue Tooth or WiFi, that is because it is a similar.

NFC has its roots in RFID or Radio Frequency Identification. RFID tags are like bar-codes that don't need to be scanned, but merely placed near an RFID reader. An RFID chip—which by the way can be smaller than a grain of rice—can be read by an RFID reader without the need for contact, so if a shopping mall were to tag everything via RFID, all a shopper would have to do is pass their shopping bag / trolley near an RFID reader, and all the products could automatically billed. For those who live in Delhi a good example of RFID chips in use is in the Delhi Metro, where tickets and smart cards use RFID tags.

An RFID tag is essentially a chip storing some data which gets activated by an RFID reader. The radio waves from the RFID reader are intercepted by the RFID tag,



**NFC HAS THE
POTENTIAL
TO SIMPLIFY
POINT TO
POINT DATA
COMM.
ESPECIALLY IN
POINT OF SALE
TRANSACTION
OPERATIONS**



and these are enough to power the device. The tag uses the power it gets from the RFID reader to send back its own radio message with the data it stores—or it could just have a small battery. In this case an RFID reader is a passive device that sends the same bits of data it is stored no matter what.

What if you were to create a similar system where two devices could communicate using similar means? Where both devices could work as both a tag and a reader to pass along small messages. Well, NFC is exactly such a system. NFC is in fact compatible with RFID, and you could have NFC tags, just like RFID tags.

APPLICATIONS

As you can guess from the name, and from its ancestry NFC is for communication between devices placed very close by, distances much closer than those required by Bluetooth or WiFi. In fact devices usually have to be touching or placed a few centimetres apart.

While this might seem like a disadvantage, and most certainly can be in many situations, it also has its positive sides. While Bluetooth and WiFi require that a device be paired, or share a mutual password, NFC has no such requirements. Authentication is assumed based on the fact that the devices are nearly touching, which would require both device users to choose to do so.

In fact NFC can be used as an alternative to entering long WiFi keys or traditional means of pairing devices using Bluetooth. For example if you have a WiFi point that supports NFC, it could automatically transmit the WiFi key to any device that is placed very near it. Or, rather than start a tedious Bluetooth pairing process, you could simply tap two phones together and they would use that gesture as consent for a Bluetooth pairing. This particular feature is in fact available in Android in the form of Android Beam.

While NFC can be used for data transfer, it can be quite slow for large amounts of data, especially when compared



NFC is now finding many uses in places where RFID was used earlier

to Bluetooth or WiFi. So Android Beam uses NFC and take advantage of its convenience in quick communication over short distances, and uses that to authenticate the devices so that that it can use quicker technologies for the actual transfer of data. As such it can transfer anything, music, videos, or the state of an application, such as tabs open in a browser, the saved state of a game etc.

NFC is also finding many uses in places where RFID was used earlier. For example it can be used as an alternative to ID cards.

One up and coming use is as a means of payment. Google Wallet for example allows one to initiate payments by simply tapping your phone on a payment device. Your financial details can be stored on Google Wallet, and when you initiate a transfer using NFC, Google Wallet only needs your authorisation for payment, and handles the rest.

Games can use NFC to initiate a multiplayer gaming session and use WiFi or Bluetooth for the actual game data.

Tapping mobile and tablets, or putting them in close proximity makes a lot of sense, but one is likely to have a hard time imagining such a thing working with desktops. Even so, a laptop or desktop fitted with NFC can use that functionality to enable all kinds of useful interactions. You could for example, transfer your browsing session to your tablet / mobile from your laptop / desktop before leaving home. Or sync between you laptop / desktop and mobile / tablet just by using NFC.

You won't find NFC on many laptops or desktops but it is only a matter of time. Look

NFC IS GROWING, SLOWLY. WITH EACH PASSING YEAR MORE PHONES TOUT NFC CAPABILITIES AND ITS USES AS A MEANS OF PAYMENT OR SIMPLE DATA EXCHANGE ARE GROWING. ACROSS THE WORLD ADOPTION OF NFC IS GROWING AND IT IS BEING USING IN PUBLIC TRANSIT SYSTEMS, AND BANKS.



at how Bluetooth is now common on many laptops and you will see how it is likely to find future laptops fitted with NFC. Desktops usually have neither but are flexible enough to use dongles to add those capabilities.

There are tons of imaginative uses for NFC that people have yet to come up with. All one needs to know are the advantages

of NFC at your disposal, quick initiation of communication, moderately fast data transfer speeds (around 400 kbit/s) and the possibility of having passive (without battery) items that interact with NFC devices.

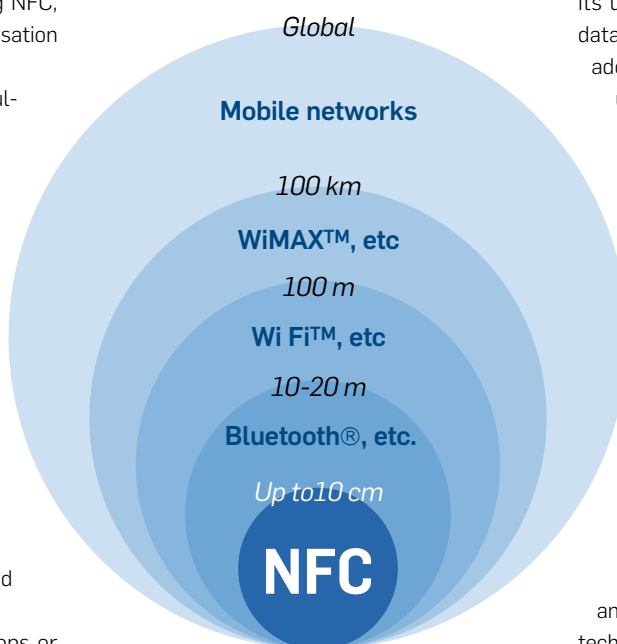
THE FUTURE OF NFC

NFC is growing, slowly. With each passing year more phones tout NFC capabilities and its uses as a means of payment or simple data exchange are growing. Across the world adoption of NFC is growing and it is being using in public transit systems, and banks.

Even in India it is in use by PayMate, an Indian mobile payment network, and Tata Docomo.

Nintendo's upcoming Wii U will support NFC in its gamepad allowing for new forms of gameplay and the possibility of NFC-driven microtransactions. Windows 8 and Windows 8 Phone both have extensive support for NFC and Intel aims to make the feature available on its Ultrabooks as well.

The future is bright for NFC technology, and this is the initial stage, where any innovation could come along and cause a sudden burst in adoption for the technology. Even otherwise it is on a positively growing trend is a technology to look out for.



Wireless Communication Standards

Build Touch Applications

TOUCH FOR DESKTOP APPS

First of all, let us clarify desktop applications here doesn't just mean applications developed for non-portable traditional desktop machines. What we mean to convey is that these are applications that are delivered via the traditional desktop model. The user downloads or otherwise acquires the software, and then installs it. The software runs directly on the machine rather than in a web browser. The machine itself could be a desktop, notebook or netbook. In fact what we are talking about is more relevant to portable devices with touch screens, not actual desktops.

Looking back at the way the research subjects approached touch capability, they tended to move between touch and the mouse depending on subtle factors in addition to conscious awareness. What this tells us is that the most comfortable mode of operation is not one where we are insisting that they use one method or another; rather, it is indeterminate. A user may click a button on a form using the mouse 80 percent of the time and use touch 20 percent of the time one day and entirely reverse this pattern the following day.

Whatever you design has to suit either input mode. Do not decide for the user, or force the user to use only touch for certain tasks and only the mouse for other task. Of course, if you fail in your design and end up making the user's input decision for him or her, frustration will certainly ensue.

Incidentally, the choice of platform and framework used in the application's construction is probably not relevant when talking about touch optimisation. For example, Java and Microsoft's dot NET are equally capable of supporting developers introducing touch in that neither platform considers touch a first-class way of providing input into an application. Over time though, this view is likely to change as touch works its way backwards from post-PC devices to PC hardware. Microsoft's Metro for example, is entirely touch based and focused. Hence, any work you have to do you'll have to do yourself, although such work tends not to be onerous.

Really, all you're trying to do is be sympathetic to the user. After all if they are frustrated by using your application on a touch device they will look for an alternative that works. And the chances of this—that is a person using your device on a computer—are only going to increase.

TARGETS

For desktop applications, the major consideration is target size. Many business applications are form based, and such applications tend to have a reputation for being tightly



AS A DEVELOPER, WHY LIMIT YOUR TARGET AUDIENCE TO SMARTPHONE AND TABLET USERS? WITH WINDOWS 8, YOU CAN NOW TARGET INTEL ULTRABOOK USERS WITH RICH AND INTERACTIVE APPS THAT TAKE ADVANTAGE OF INBUILT SENSORS INCLUDING TOUCH AND PROXIMITY



packed. Often the interfaces are dense with information and controls to improve the efficiency for repetitive tasks.

Touch simply does not give the kind of precision that one can get with a mouse. While a mouse always registers an exact, single-pixel coordinate under the hotspot of the cursor, the operating system assumes the input from a touch screen is likely to be inaccurate and compensates accordingly. The operating system thus has to be a little intuitive and "guess" where you wanted to click based on where the user elements lie on the user interface, and the "fuzzy" area covered by the touch of a finger.

For example, if the touch screen reports that you pressed just outside of a field, the operating system may choose to interpret this as a click in the field, as you are more likely to want to click in the field than you are to click outside of the field. Therefore, one way in which you can help the operating system is to space the fields so that presses outside of fields can be more reliably mapped as intentions to click in fields. The same applies to buttons.

Another way to help the operating system is to make the fields larger, for the simple reason that a larger field is easier to hit. Generally though, the standard presentation of buttons and fields is of an appropriate size for touch or mouse operation.

Oftentimes, forms get cramped, because software engineers want to get everything onto a single form; so, it's easy to find applications that have fussy or fiddly forms. When touch-optimising this sort of form, you may find it appropriate to break out individual functionality into tabs. Of course, you also have to make the tabs an appropriate size. By default, tabs are typically too small, probably because designers generally considered them a secondary UI element. For touch optimisation, you're turning that secondary element back into a primary element by making it larger.

Toolbars and menus are another consideration. Menus are usually managed by the operating system, and as such, you can assume that the operating system will interpret touch in an optimal way when working with

menus. That said, because it's likely the user will have a keyboard, you may choose to make some of your touch optimisation work include increasing keyboard accelerators for driving the menu, thereby generally reducing the need to use the menu.

In terms of toolbars, you may find that the buttons are too small. Toolbars are necessary, but developers tend to make them as small as possible, because they are a secondary feature compared to the display of the data you're working on.

The bigger problem with toolbars is tooltips. Introduced with Microsoft Windows 95, these tips allow users to use the mouse to obtain a deeper understanding of what a button does. Toolbar icons are often cryptic, and often their meaning is established by convention rather than meaningful icon. Consider the often-used floppy icon for saving files. To most people of this generation that icon bears no resemblance to anything they use, for them it is the save icon rather than the image of a floppy. A new user then would have to look at a tooltip over this button to understand what it means rather than by looking at that icon.

The Intel team's research didn't include a test as to whether users took advantage of tooltips, but it's easy to assume that users wanting to know what a button did might well hold it down and expect more information to appear. This functionality is certainly doable, but consider that the user's finger and hand will be obscuring the screen around the button, etc. Therefore, you will need to consider where you display the tooltip. As tooltips are a standard feature of most toolbar libraries, this change of presentation may require additional work.

Traditional desktop applications often rely on pop-up forms and dialog boxes. The only consideration here is that people often want to move and resize these items. The operating system will, of course, do this for you. Moreover, the operating system should do a good job by itself of handling touch interaction on captions and borders. Therefore, verify that your application works adequately in this regard out of the box.

OTHER APPLICATIONS

So much for basic forms applications. What about those applications with more novel, specialised interfaces?

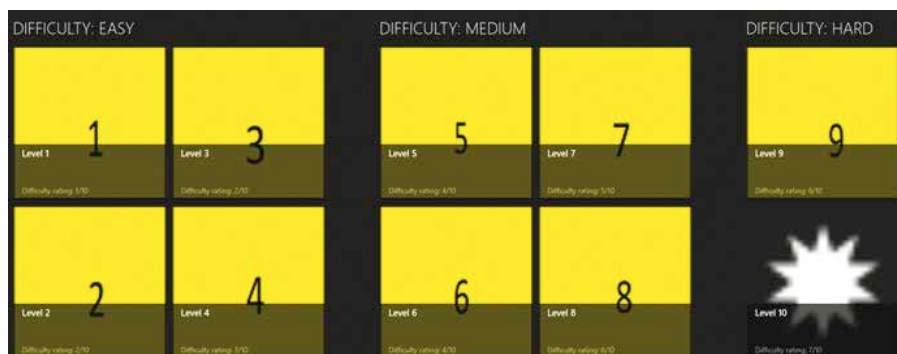
From time to time, developers build custom interfaces with the expectation that users will drag items around on their surfaces or scroll around. Consider an image editing application; you are working on a canvas, where the image can be moved around to put focus on different areas. You can add elements to the image, and resize or rotate them. In such a case you need to ensure that the handles for resizing, and rotation are large enough to be picked up via touch.

You may run into a problem where the operating system is limited in the help it can give you in interpreting touch placement. When the operating system is asked to display a form, it has an understanding of the construction of that form and therefore is able to make decisions like, "The user clicked in a blank area; I suppose he or she actually wanted to click this field." If you custom

Gestures such as pinch-to-zoom aren't something that can be replicated with a mouse though, so it is important to not have them as the exclusive means to perform an action. Otherwise you will leave behind mouse users.

STUDY: CHILDREN'S MATH GAME

In this game, the user is given the option to choose a difficulty level. In every level, the user selects operands (digits) and operators (+, -, *, /). The goal is to construct an arithmetic sequence that uses both operators and operands to create a sound mathematical equation. If the equation is correct, the tiles disappear; otherwise, nothing happens. The goal is to make all operand tiles disappear. It is possible to get stuck in a level if equations aren't constructed properly! Thus, the game requires thinking ahead.



The user simply taps on each tile to make the selection

draw the whole interface, the operating system just sees a rendering surface without deeper meaning. As such, you may need to replicate the fuzzy matching that the operating system does on your own custom controls.

ZOOMING AND SCROLLING

Operating systems typically interpret scroll intentions properly. A word of caution, though. If you use third-party control libraries in your application, you may run into problems. Although the operating system knows that one of its list box controls is a list box and can infer a scroll intention, that may not be a given for a third-party control. That said, it should generally be the case that scrolling works alright, as even third-party controls tend to build on and extend the regular operating system controls.

One area where you may find yourself working harder is zooming. "Pinch to zoom" on touch devices is natural, but there's no built-in support for it on the standard controls.

When the app is launched, the user sees:

If, for instance, the user chooses level 3, the game board XAML is loaded and play begins:

On this game board, a correct equation could be constructed as follows: $(1+2)-2 = 1$. Note that the game does not use the formal order of operations—equations are processed from left to right. So, here, the user could choose the following tiles in this order: 1, +, 2, -, 2, 1

The game does not need an equal sign; the game logic tracks the cumulative total as the user continues selecting tiles. The following picture shows the partial selection of all but the final tile. The selected tiles are shaded so they appear darker. Now, when the user selects "1", the equation is properly constructed, and the tiles disappear!

There is one problem. The game has no way to arithmetically eliminate all remaining operand tiles. Winning in the original level structure shown above is left as an exercise for the user! ■

CTC Winners

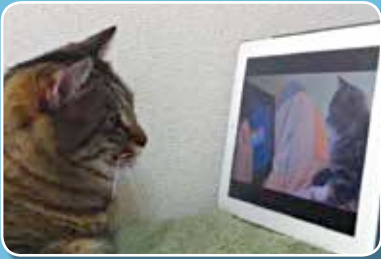
CTC IV is finally done. Check out our community page to see who won!

SKOAR!

Borderlands 2, FIFA 13, PES 2013 and a look at ICGC (Goa)

The funniest stuff on the net

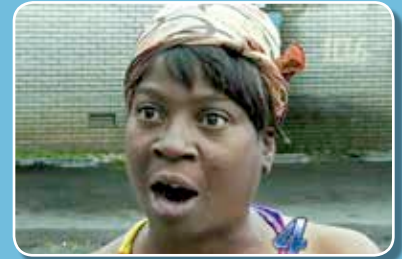
Being a humour issue this month, we spent quite some time looking for funny stuff as "inspiration". Our hours spent online hunting for funny stuff proved to be quite fruitful (sigh, we love our jobs) and here is the pick of the team's "funniest stuff on the internet"

**Cat-ception**

Cat watching Nyan cat. Cat watching cat watching Nyan cat. Cat watching cat watching Nyan cat. Cat watching cat watching cat watching Nyan cat. Cat watching cat watching cat watching cat watching Nyan cat. The video stops at this point, probably because the creator's mind couldn't take it anymore. Imagine being stuck in limbo, watching this video over and over again. [shudder]

Troll Alert

David Thorne is a humanitarian and graphic designer who helps design free posters for the needy. Many of us were in tears as we went through his site, barely able to speak, held in the grip of extreme emotion. If you need any help, please do send him a mail at david@27bslash6.com, just don't forget to send us a copy of the conversation.

**Autotuned masterpieces**

We're a superstitious bunch at Digit and we can't end our day without listening to Sweet Brown's brilliant rendition of "Ain't nobody got time for that!" An autotuned anthem that puts the likes of Sarah Brightman to shame. Also, we have an inexplicable need to remind ourselves of our lucky number, muttering "pucheees pucheess" under our breath as we work.

**You listen to mee**

engrish.com vely bad site ya. You no visit that intanet prace vely much. You stay away! It mess with your head see and you not know what happen to your engrish overtime. Now stop pesteling mee. Get out o' here. Go somewhere else or you bad person, see? Next tile more appealing ya, stay away from mee. I hate all of you. OK?

Say "NO" to drugs

Did you know that a spider on marijuana will make a hammock and lay down on it instead of buiding a nice web for itself? How do you think it'll react to cocaine or cafeine? What about LSD? Head over to <http://dgit.in/P4jMa8> and check out the very educational video on the effects of drugs on spiders. It's a very startling resemblance to human behaviour.

**I keeel you!**

If you were to imagine staring down a gaunt and livid terrorist as he stares back at you, fire in his eyes and vehemently screaming "I KILL YOU" in a tremulous voice, you can't help but burst out in hysterical laughter at the insanity of it all. Laughter you say? Wouldn't you be all knock-kneed, teeth-chattering terror? <http://dgit.in/Ri3VEZ>

How we unwind

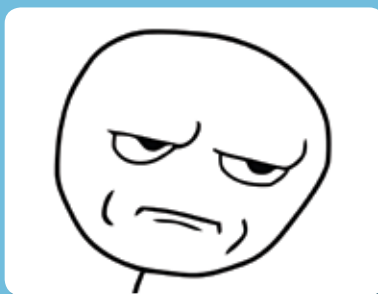


G27 and GT5

What can we say? We got a Logitech G27. The very first thing we did, after the power cable fiasco (read the review) was to get ourselves a copy of GT5 and beg and plead with the mastah for his PS3. He did eventually leave it for us in the office, but probably spent more time with it than anyone else, spending hours trying to send a Paganni Zonda drifting around a speed ring.

How to troll a Nimish...

You've been writing non-stop for a couple of hours, there's so much information in your brain, you'll probably have an aneurysm; frustration levels are high, what do you do? You turn to your right and troll Nimish. You take his case on everything from his professed love for Steven Wilson (Porcupine Tree), journalistic soft corner for "human interest stories" and pretty much everything else including his currently open chrome tab!



Borderlands 2

Yes, we're still playing this game. Anirudh and Jayesh especially. Both of them go home, come back the next day and then compare notes on their levels and what weapons they got and what not. This got so bad by the end of the month, with dozens of deadlines looming around the corner, Anirudh decided to start writing in Ubuntu just so that he wouldn't "inadvertently" start playing!

digit DIARY

Productivity hit a new low this month as the gaming peripherals started trickling into the office. Everyone dropped whatever they were doing and started playing in an effort to "review" the products thoroughly for the sake of you, dear reader. We played and played and played to such an extent that we didn't actually do any work till the end of the month. So, if you're getting this magazine late, you have our most (in) sincere apologies.

Moving on, we received a new minion this month, better known as Spandan "Vibrator" Sharma (we couldn't resist, the name seemed so, well, apt). A strapping young lad with the innocence and aura of a newly wed maiden about him. Don't worry though, we've been working on him and hopefully, we'll get him to learn the ways of the world (our world at the very least) in no time at all. He is a fast learner and we expect to see some improvement in the weeks that follow.

In other news, the iPad mini launched this month and for a couple of us geeks, it was actually the first keynote we had ever seen live. Yeah, we know, but we're not such big fans of their keynotes anyway, especially when, being a true geek, you know that all that fluff about fusion drives and thinner devices is literally that, fluff. We would have fallen asleep if

it wasn't for Jayesh's running commentary throughout the proceedings. Nimish, in his attempt to stay one step ahead of us, was reading the Verge livecast while we were watching the keynote on Apple's site. Why that few second's advantage was appealing to him was beyond us, but what was even more surprising was when Jayesh, without interrupting his running commentary, almost put his fist through Nimish's monitor in frustration. It gave us quite a turn, but being well-versed in each other's oddities, we managed to maintain a poker face and pretend that nothing had happened.

Siddharth, a leading member with Digit's twitterati, had a mild run in with the management. Recently put in charge of managing Digit's Twitter accounts, the double life of managing his own account along with Digit's finally got to him and he accidentally posted something weird on Digit's twitter page (he blames his phone for the error, but we know otherwise). Fortunately, he has the reflexes of a ninja and managed to delete the post instantly. Unfortunately, you readers have the reflexes of a hyper-active house fly and managed to retweet that post at least twice in the one second that it was left online. All-in-all, this was among the more unusual months we've spent here.



Karbons Agnee 3G

Karbons has unveiled its Android tablet due this diwali and is expected to be priced below ₹10,000



Zynga Layoffs

Zynga CEO Mark Pincus confirmed the firm will be firing about 5 % of its workforce, potentially shutting down its overseas offices

digit CRACK THE CODE

CTC-IV brought to you by 



Meet this year's smartest Digit readers

1st PLACE



Kishan Bagaria

2nd PLACE



Manav Khattri

3rd PLACE



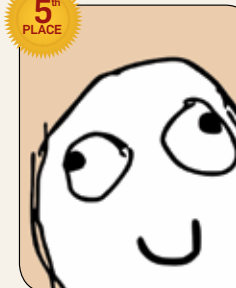
Sumeet Gureck

4th PLACE



Salman Khan

5th PLACE



Rohan Kwatra

First 100 players to finish CTC IV will get Trend micro Titanium license worth Rs. 1,500 . List of winners available at www.thinkdigit.com/ctciwinners

Check Point 1

Winners get Digit T-shirts

1. Sumeet Gureck
2. Chirag Jain
3. Ashish Kadam
4. Mohit Yadav
5. Akshit Gupta



Check Point 2

Winners get Digit store vouchers worth ₹500

1. Manav Khattri
2. Achuth Krishnan
3. Sumit Lakra
4. Sanchit Gangwar
5. Shantanu Mathur



Check Point 3

Winners get Cowon CE1 in-ear headphone

1. Rohan Kwatra
2. Tanmay Agarwal
3. Achuth Krishnan
4. Utkarsh Mathur
5. Avi Sharma



Terms and Conditions

• Editor's decision is final and binding on all participants. • Prizes worth ₹30,000 (collectively) to be distributed amongst the top 5 winners as per rank. We will call up the winners to give them a chance to choose their own prizes. • Product images are for representational purposes only.



Google Search App

Google has delivered a new search app for the Windows 8 platform, that has increased tablet optimization than previous incarnations




Final Cut Pro X

Apple has released a fresh version of its famous (and occasionally controversial) video-editing software, Final Cut Pro

Community

Head over to www.thinkdigit.com/forum to meet some of the most helpful geeks. Our forum members are always up for helping each other out in times of need.


06-07-2012, 10:04 PM

Mario 
Alpha Geek
Join Date: Dec 2010
Posts: 512


Re: A product website design and development

Are you making a specialized CMS kind of thing for quickly generating a IT-product e-commerce site?

06-07-2012, 11:07 PM


Faus 
Wahahaha=|
Join Date: Dec 2006
Location: Pune/there
Posts: 8,259

Re: A product website design and development


Originally Posted by Mario 
Are you making a specialized CMS kind of thing for quickly generating a IT-product e-commerce site?

I am just starting out after a long time.
It's kind of a simple CMS.


07-07-2012, 01:05 AM

Faus 
Wahahaha=|
Join Date: Dec 2006
Location: Pune/there
Posts: 8,259

Re: A product website design and development

Originally Posted by JojoTheDragon 
Its cool.

thanks

Originally Posted by abhidev 
are you developing your own CMS or using some framework like Joomla ?

Everything is from scratch. Using php, jquery and usual html CSS stuff.

Looking for free stuff online?

19-10-2012, 01:04 PM

mooctillip 
Computer Addict
Join Date: Apr 2009
Posts: 325

Free Giveaway Site

Found a site listing free giveaways. Hope it will help someone
Latest Giveaways | Share and be informed on latest free software offers

20-10-2012, 09:06 AM


Vyom 
fighting the odds

Re: Free Giveaway Site

Nice to see a giveaway site other than the popular giveawayoftheday.com
I think I found a good video editor there. TFS.

Demystifying Windows 8, just for you...

30-05-2012, 08:05 AM

Sujeet 
Undead!!!
Join Date: Dec 2011
Location: India
Posts: 1,680

The Windows 8 Thread

The Next "Big Thing" in Windows Line Up of OS is Here-Windows 8.

Windows 8

Microsoft is calling it as a rebirth of their Existence, with inception of Windows 8.

Windows 8 is first Windows OS which has been designed to run on both ARM and X86 Machines.

Windows-On-Arm aka Windows RT is meant for Low Power and Portable devices like Tablets, Netbooks and Tablet-Netbook/Notebook Hybrids.

Windows 8 major Attraction is the Simple and intuitive Metro UI with hosts of Live Functionality like those of Tiles on Windows Phone.



Arise Vault Hunter

Manish "Trigger Happy" Rajesh
 feedback@skoar.com

Welcome back to Pandora! Borderlands 2 brings you back to your favourite planet to sink yourself in complete shootout mayhem once again. What's the difference? This time it's got MORE guns, MORE stuff to shoot at, MORE quests to complete and MORE everything! You get the idea.

The game was a fresh breath of air from the usual plethora of role playing games out there. Was it able to match up to the crazy, whacky style its predecessor brought to the RPG realm? HELL YEAH!

So just like most RPGs we play, the game strives to find the best loot out there, and Borderlands 2 has no shortage of loot. Everything you kill, which is practically anything that moves, drops loot. The loot consists of mostly guns, ammo, guns, mods, guns, grenades, guns, shields, guns, miscellaneous stuff and did we mention guns? The guns are all fun to use and some of them can even have hilarious personalities. Yes, you read that right, personalities! The first time you hear an SMG cackling like a maniac as you fire at bad guys you'll assume the fetal position and roll about the floor laughing.

Borderlands brings with it a massive array of side quests in addition to the main story line. You'll find yourself undertaking these side quests not only for levelling up

but also for rare loot which would make your game all the more fun. And it isn't just guns. You get whacky grenades as well and even more fancy shields and whatnot. Other miscellaneous stuff like class mods and relics also serve to further enhance your character's abilities.

As with all RPGs Borderlands follows a levelling system which allows you to gain skills each time you advance a level. Like the first game, Borderlands 2 has four classes to choose from, each one having a specialization of their own. The classes will be familiar to those who played the previous game, but they are just different enough to provide a unique and enjoyable experience. More classes are slowly being added via DLCs.

The new seamless co-op mode is very enjoyable. You find yourself competing with friends or complete strangers for loot and are able to pursue quests you've already completed with them again, and at the same time, quests you complete with them are considered done if you were to go back to playing single player again.

The story starts off where the last one ended; you start as one of the four new vault hunters who are in search for, you guessed it, vaults. The opening of the last vault led to the discovery of Eridium, an ultra-rare priceless ore. Pandora has been taken over by the evil Hyperion Corporation, and its handsome and "magnanimous" leader, Handsome Jack. Oh, he also happens to want all

the Eridium to himself and all vault hunters dead, go figure. As you progress along the main plot you'll find yourself in a quest to save Pandora and its endearing residents from Jack. Let Claptrap show you the way.*

Verdict

All in all, Borderlands has taken everything we love about the game and made it even better, making some much needed changes to allow players to enjoy the game even more. In fact, what really stands out in this game, even above the plethora of guns and excellent combat and everything else, is the extremely interesting dialogue. The atmosphere is quirky and crazy and there is a method to this madness. This is one of the best games we've played this year and is an experience that must not be missed.

MOAR!

- » **Developer:** Gearbox software
- » **Genre:** FPS, Action, RPG
- » **Platforms:** PC, PS3, Xbox
- » **Price:** PC: ₹999 /





Gaming in Goa: **ICGC National Finals**

A frenetic weekend with champions



Jayesh "Big Daddy" Shinde
feedback@skoar.com

In a sleepy resort off the tourist map, ICGC (Indian Cyber Gaming Championship) held its annual event in Goa, earlier last month. It was a final sprint to the finish line for a lot of good gamers competing from around the country. At stake were bragging rights, cash prizes, the title of national champions, and a chance to represent India in the international rounds of a few noteworthy competitions. What more could a self-respecting Indian gamer ask for?

The inauguration of the event was delayed a bit, but once they started the organizers wasted no time in getting right down to business. Organized by Nodwin Gaming, the ICGC Goa finale successfully staged and completed its three-day weekend gaming event, which saw over 400 gamers participate and congregate from all over the country. If not gaming against opponents in various knockout rounds or lounging around in the resort's two swimming pools (water polo!), the players of various clans were busy practicing their moves and tactics, strategizing on how to put their best foot forward.

However, there was precious little time to waste idling around or trying to explore Goa's weekend pleasures, as the gaming schedule was pretty intense, almost round the clock. There was plenty to keep the gamers busy and on their game as the day's gaming sessions – with simultaneous parallel sessions on different games – would start around noon and go non-stop all the way until 4 a.m. the next day. Battling sleep and weariness, energy drinks came to the gamers' rescue and were consumed by the dozen! Nothing prevented the show from going on.

The tournament featured games like DOTA, DOTA 2, FIFA 12, League of Legends, Battlefield 3, Counter Strike Global Offensive, Tekken Tag Tournament and Blur. Three of the games were on a console platform (PS3), while the other five were played on the PC. Participating in the event were some of India's elite gamers hailing from different parts of the country. In all, teams from 14 Indian cities, all competing for the ultimate prize: The chance to represent India in a global tournament of renowned gamers. How? For ICGC officially held the Indian legs of The Games Xpo (featuring DOTA 2) and the Electronic Sports World Cup (featuring FIFA 12 and

Tekken), winners of which would go on to compete internationally in Malaysia and Paris, respectively. We would like to congratulate Oblique Gaming (who won the DOTA 2 finals), Sagar Vyas (FIFA 12 winner) and Lovneet Dogra (Tekken Tag Tournament winner)

Attached along with the gaming tournament was an ancillary event, an expo of brands associated with the field of gaming – Alienware, Cooler Master, and Gunnar Optics. They had stalls to showcase their latest products and services to the gaming community.

The event organizers also made some encouraging announcements at ICGC's Goa event. The esports movement in India, which features gaming tournaments based on sports-based games, is moving closer towards recognition by the Indian Olympic Association, an important step which would help provide credibility to cyber athletes. ICGC also flagged off the Indian Pro Gaming House, a place where cyber athletes will be trained, prepped and coached along with paying them a salary, to bring professionalism into the Indian esports arena. All this will definitely help raise the profile of gaming in India. Can't hardly wait for the next ICGC finals? Neither can we! ✨

SKOAR!

FIFA 13

The Undisputed King



Jayesh "Big Daddy" Shinde
feedback@skoar.com

The mechanics of the game haven't deviated much from FIFA 12 to FIFA 13 – the look and feel of the menus, cut scene animations, background atmosphere, physics, etc. But having said that, FIFA 13 admirably builds on the foundations of FIFA 12 by heightening the sense of realism experienced within the game. You can play real-life matches that reflect the form and shape of a team at any given day – you can't pick injured players, team morale is reflective of league position, etc. – and the feature should be a great hit among fantasy football fans.

Prime among new features added to FIFA 13 is the skill games you have to take part in before kicking-off a game -- in FIFA 12 you had to run with the ball on the training ground which would transform into a packed arena. In FIFA 13 you play the skill games before kick-off, randomized to help you focus before a game. It's addictive and a great way of fine tuning technical skills, too. The in-game commentary continues to be brilliant with the addition of Geoff Shreeves and Alan McInally for updates from other live games and players injured during the game, respectively. This interplay between the commentators works seamlessly and is another nod towards FIFA 13's mission towards improved realism in the game.

FIFA 13 is the first game in EA's football franchise to support motion controllers. But



controlling and playing FIFA 13 through the Move motion controller isn't as intuitive or natural as playing a round of golf in Tiger Woods PGA Tour 13 or swinging a racquet in Grand Slam Tennis 2. Motion controller support is clunky on FIFA 13 and it's a work-in-progress for EA, something to focus on and fix in the next installment of the game.

You won't notice anything drastically different between FIFA 12 and FIFA 13's gameplay, other than a few subtleties in the latest version of the game. Player physics is fine tuned to further enhance depth and immersion in the game – collisions are much more natural, the ball's momentum matters while receiving a pass, the player's position plays a vital role, dribbling is even finer and more precise than before, and that's just a few noteworthy improvements. First Touch Control is the latest addition to the game, after the previous installments focused on dribbling and defensive aspects of the game.

FIFA 13 continues the encouraging gameplay mechanic tweaks introduced in FIFA 12 by making the game a little less predictive, and for all the right reasons. Sure it's still easy to score a goal and

yes the goalie could be more manoeuvrable but overall FIFA 13's gameplay is very good, we have no complaints. And watching a game unfold on the screen isn't far removed from the real deal. FIFA 13 successfully delivers a first class gaming experience, where one really feels that it's far more than just a football simulator. *

Verdict

FIFA 13 builds on the good work started by EA with FIFA 12, making the football simulator experience better than ever. A few new features really help the game attain new heights in mimicking realism, making this a bright new chapter in EA's celebrated football franchise.

MOAR!

- » **Developer:** EA Canada
- » **Publisher:** EA Sports
- » **Genre:** Sports, Simulation
- » **Platforms:** Windows, Xbox 360, PS3, PS2, etc
- » **Price:** PC: ₹2,999 on PS3 and Xbox 360; ₹1,499 for PC





SKOAR!



A Hit and Miss



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Konami hasn't changed the PES 2012 recipe all that much, as a result PES 2013 bears an overbearing resemblance to its predecessor. It's both good and bad. The game, for instance, has a new training mode which takes newcomers and PES veterans alike on a journey of learning and practicing all the nuances of the game. We recommend practicing the new skills and moves a lot to save frustrating moments while playing games. And yes, the learning curve associated with mastering the new moves is definitely steeper, more challenging.

Player movements have been improved. How players approach and react on and off the ball is better than ever before, and the ball physics is more realistic. PES 2013 sports a new defence system that's difficult to master, but immensely satisfying at the same time – it's one of the reason why the game clicks. Compared to FIFA 13, PES 2013 imparts greater and finer control to the player in all aspects of on-the-pitch gameplay, and it's visible in the defence. PES Full Control lets you decide the direction, speed and angle of a shot without complicating the controller, while Deft Touch Dribbling lets you add finesse to a player's on-the-ball movement. When they come off, both these features work beautifully and help transform PES 2013 to a whole new level – but yes, if you don't practice,

you'll be frustrated. The tempo of the game has slowed down in PES 2013 compared to PES 2012, and we welcome this tweak.

Just like the new features elevate and add to PES 2013's gameplay atmosphere, its unwillingness to address obvious shortcomings spoils the overall experience. Player likenesses have improved a bit, but the commentary remains one of PES 2013's lowest points, and it needs an immediate overhaul – it doesn't add to the gaming experience, only interrupts and irritates. While the presentation in FIFA 13 couldn't be any sleeker, PES 2013's menu and home screens look a bit dated. While it's still great playing Become A Legend and PES' Master League, we notice the advancement in their counterparts in FIFA 13 more visibly than in PES 2013. It would be nice to see Become A Legend and Master League get some attention from Konami so it keeps pace with time.

The online multiplayer mode in PES 2013 is still identical to its predecessor except one change – you can win items to modify a player's stats in the offline Legend or Master League mode. While PES 2013 excels offline, its online game-play leaves a lot to be desired. *

Verdict

FIFA 13 remains the better game as a complete entertainment package, mimicking on and off-field realism better than PES 2013. However, PES 2013 excels over FIFA 13 in one crucial aspect, the on-field gameplay mechanics. A game played in PES 2013, after thorough training, is more dogged, more believable, and more satisfying than any FIFA 13 game you'll ever play. Despite all its shortcomings, and for the football fan undecided on their allegiance, that's reason enough to give PES 2013 a try.

MOAR!

- » **Developer:** PES Productions
- » **Publisher:** EA Sports
- » **Distributor:** Konami
- » **Genre:** Sports, Simulation
- » **Platforms:** Windows, PS3, Xbox 360, more
- » **Price:** ₹2,999 on PS3, Xbox 360 / ₹1,499 on PC





Call of Duty Black Ops 2

Activision has announced that the online Call of Duty: Elite subscription service will become free upon the launch of Black Ops 2 on November 13

Adobe Reader App

Adobe has updated its Adobe reader app for iOS and Android app with cloud, FormsCentral support mobile document rights management with secure watermark support

Humour 101

How to be funny online... and in real life. Kind of.

Humour is an essential part of the human experience. Some philosophers (who we fail to remember) have argued that expressing and appreciating humour is as important as our ability to think. It's what separates us from apes and other primates, making us human. Whether it's Ray William Johnson's weekly report on viral videos, Jon Stewart's political satire, or Andy Samberg's SNL skits, we all laugh and smile at things online. Here's our take on what works and what doesn't.

- **Humour is effortless and should come naturally**, it can't be forced. So be natural, act normal, and don't ever force it. Ever. Trying to be funny almost always fails, whether you're on the Web or off it. Beware: for people will see through your act, get bored, stab their eyes and curse their unlucky stars for having to experience your constipated sense of humour.

- **There's a fine line between being funny or hilarious and making an utter and complete fool of yourself**. Think again: are those people really laughing with you or at you? If you're a "funny" Youtube video you'll realize this soon enough – those who like you are the former, while those who want to hunt down and kill you are the latter.

- **Being funny on Twitter is insanely difficult**, mainly due to its 140 characters cap. At least as far as Twitter's concerned, less is better. If you work on a tweet joke for more than a few minutes, put aside your self-delusion for a second and accept the fact that may be being funny isn't your thing. Get off the stage, you should be in the audience!

- Just because every Tom, Dick and Harry (and his grandmummy!) can make a meme and post it on your Facebook timeline, it doesn't mean you have to follow suit. **Memes and rage comics are a good start**, but don't get stuck and quickly rise above them to make your style and mode of humour delivery unique and of better quality.

- **Use the power of Web for effective fact-mining and broadening your scope of humour** to connect and compare two seemingly unrelated or opposite concepts. For




instance, if you can connect Sachin Tendulkar to Genghis Khan (who never had anything to do with each other, as far as we can remember) in an article or video ridiculing all the scams uncovered in India recently, you're thinking outside the box.

- **Excessive use of expletives don't necessarily add to the humour quotient** of the content, and expletives can never make up for lack of humour – using them as a punchline, for

instance. If you aren't careful with that potty mouth of yours, you'll have potential followers smell the reek from afar, wrinkle their noses and flee far away.

- **Always make fun of yourself**. If you take yourself too seriously and are wound up like a spring, you will have a hard time connecting with your audience.

- Humour on the web has all kinds of people reading it, folks from across the world, with different backgrounds and sensibilities. In your eagerness to make fun of anything and everything, always remember

that **making fun of certain topics can be socially awkward, frowned upon or even be deemed downright insulting**. Topics like rape, people with special needs, The Holocaust, religion and few others are best left unexplored. Use your own discretion. 



Worklight

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<http://dgit.in/wrklht>

“My elder brother lets me use his bike”

Cricket Today. An addiction for over 27.5 lakh men.

When it comes to winning hearts of young Indian men, Cricket Today emerges as the clear winner. And we don't claim that. The IRS 2011Q4 report proves that. According to this survey, Cricket Today is much ahead of Autocar, Digit, SportStar, People and many such magazines. In other words it means that Cricket Today is not just a sports magazine. In fact, it is the most stylish and sleek lifestyle magazine that caters to upwardly mobile Indian males. The reason why men just can't help getting addicted to it.

Cricket
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IRS 2011Q4- Total Readership Figures(In lakh): Cricket Today- 27.55, AutoCar- 9.44, Health & Nutrition- 8.66, SportStar- 8.02, Digit- 6.53, Overdrive- 3.94, Auto India- 2.92, People- 1.53

*Combined English & Hindi figures. All figures as per IRS 2011Q4.

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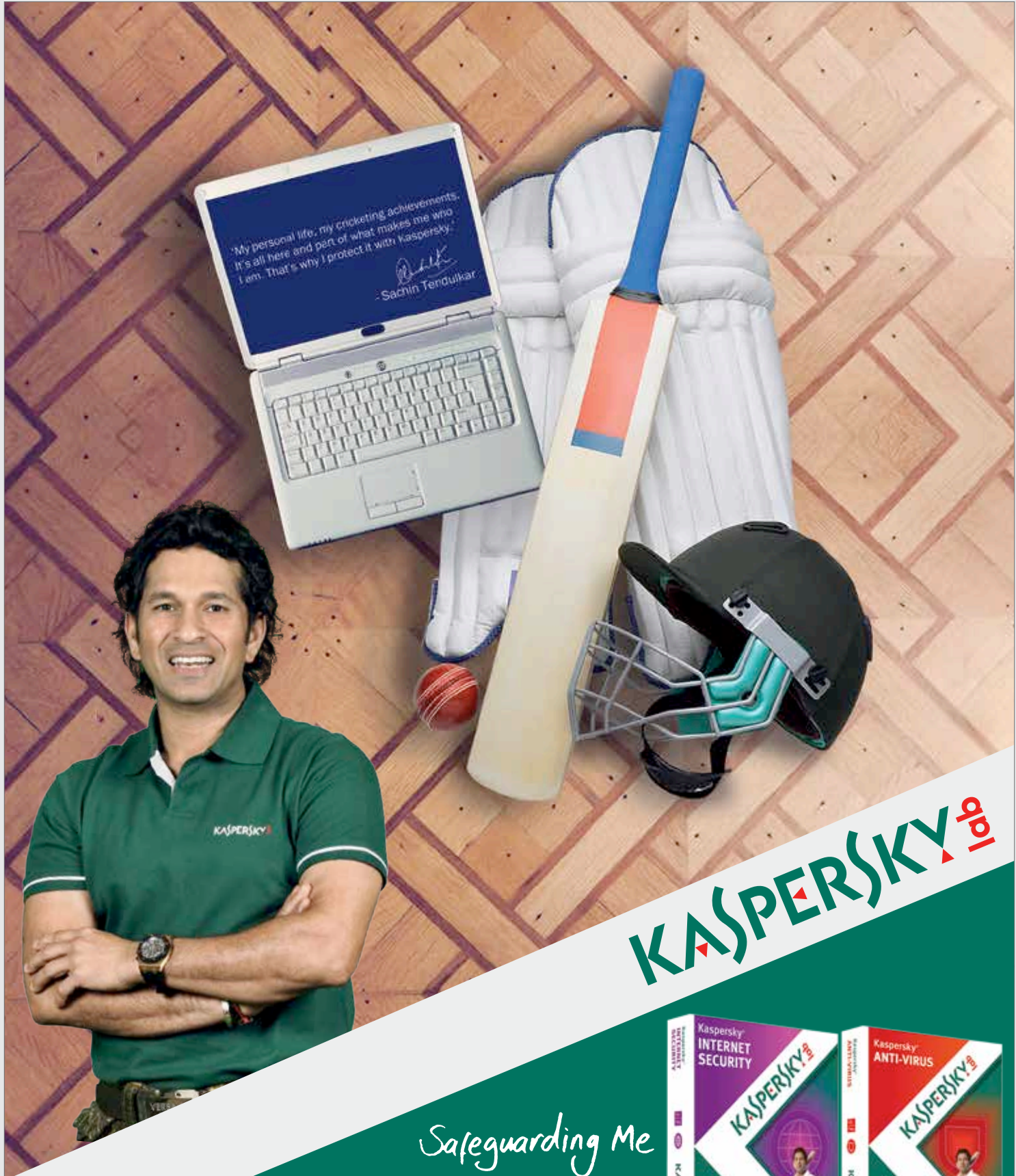
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