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Hook, line and sinker

We love our technology, don't we? I mean we really, really love it to the point of insanity... at times. This month, I was a little taken aback to read about Indonesians trampling over one another to get their hands on the new BlackBerry 9790. This was not because the vendor was offering the 9790 for a mere 4.7 million Indonesian Rupiah, but because he used the oldest trick in the book – offer the first thousand pieces for a 50 per cent discount. That's a saving of about 2.35 million Rupiah (or a little over 11,000 of our Rupees).

Now I'm more used to reading about news stories about long queues and all-night vigils for technology – games, products, whatever – from the West. I never expected Indonesians to go that beserk over a new phone model. Perhaps they're even crazier bargain hunters than us Indians; who knows. Sadly, hundreds were injured in the melee, and of course many phones were sold... What was the major problem? Authorities, obviously not used to such craziness, mistakenly placed the people who had arrived the previous night behind those that arrived early morning, and scuffles broke out.

Anyway, that's Indonesia, where people literally pay in millions for phones... that would never happen here, right? I'm not so sure anymore! The same day all the craziness unfolded in Indonesia, and people rushed to save millions of Rupiahs, quite a few Indians were awake at midnight, and outside Aircel and Airtel shops, itching to spend thousands of Rupees, looking to buy an iPhone 4S.

Obviously Apple phones in India are popular, and you would expect quite a few people to put in orders for the new iPhone, and all the hype around Siri, Apple's new natural language interface. Were there discounts in the offing, as in Indonesia? Not at all. This is a premium product being sold at a premium price...

So, in a country where the most common question about cars is, "*Mileage kitna deti hai*?", and everyone from old aunties to little kids are used to bargaining with the local trader for everything, there was actually a line (regardless of how small or big), for a rather expensive product? Actually, let me rephrase that... I said "rather expensive", I really meant "ridiculously overpriced" – the phones cost Rs. 44,500, Rs. 50,900 and 57,500 for the 16GB, 32GB and 64GB models respectively!

Of course the numbers are small here, and there's no pushing and shoving involved, because they're expensive models– or as one witty person put it on Facebook, "About half a Tata Nano!". And yes, there's a marketing gimmick thrown in about recovering half the cost in 2 years because of plan discounts, and the likes, but it's still pretty obvious that only a minority (rich, or fanatical), can afford to buy it. However, with over a billion people, this number isn't as small as you and I would like to believe. Thanks to the sheer size of our population and increasingly disposable income, a lot of us are looking to spend a little more than we really *should*.

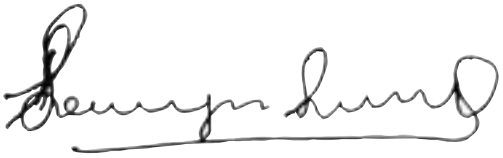
I'm no different, I have to admit. I've bought guitar equipment that I cannot really afford, and a speaker system that isn't officially available in India, and thus costs more than double than the US price. Why? Because there are just some things you like and want, no matter what. Of course, I justify this by telling myself that they are purchases that will last a lifetime – I'm not going to be buying new guitar rigs and speakers for at least the better part of a decade. "Hey, be thankful you're not addicted to new phones!" I tell myself.

So what is it about technology that has us stretching our budgets so easily? How do companies get us to stay addicted to their offerings?

Consumerism, geeks inheriting the earth, or other reasons I've written about in this space before, does it really matter? We've got credit cards, and products drool-worthy enough to make us want to use them.

Plus, the very nature of technology is to renew and refresh, to throw up excitingly new things to fiddle with and try out. Everything is faster today than it was yesterday, everything is more seamlessly connected than last year, and of course, everything is more expensive as well. Of course, salaries are going up, and likewise our expectations. As long as we don't go the sub-prime way, we ought to be fine... or is that just another case of justifying the need to scratch that technology buying itch?

Whatever the case, we've been captured, hook, line and sinker, and we're not complaining. Are we?



Liked or hated this column? Write in to *editor@thinkdigit.com* and express yourself.



Robert Sovereign-Smith
Executive Editor
editor@thinkdigit.com

"Thanks to the sheer size of our population and increasingly disposable income, a lot of us are looking to spend a little more than we really *should*."

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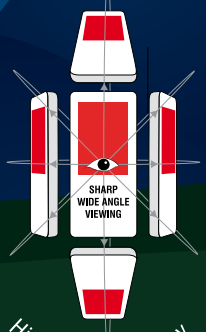
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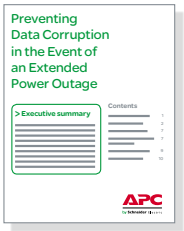
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Feedback about the November 2011 issue of Digit



✉ I've been reading Digit for a long time now. My vote is for 2 Fast tracks and 1 DVD. You should try and experiment with some interesting topics just for a change. Perhaps something like digital photography which you included in the November issue, I really loved that.

Sivkan Puri

You guys lost that vote, 60 per cent to 40 per cent, unfortunately. The Fast Track to AI this month ought to interest you.

Robert

✉ I've been a great fan of your magazine from my school days and highly appreciate the content and new reviews that are published in your magazine. Well, I bought the Diwali version of your magazine and I'm really satisfied by the content of your magazine being a hardcore reader of magazines of any kind. Digit takes priority when I have a little money and have to decide what magazine to buy this month :-) Thanks for making me feel really happy by bringing out your magazine. It's a great resource of gaining knowledge about various products and technology. Once again, thanks for providing such a magazine to our INDIAN student community.

I want to bring to your notice an issue I came across because of my habit of collecting my favorite magazine and Digit is such a magazine for me. This time when I bought the Diwali issue, I found difficulty in unpacking the books. I mean the cellotape used to keep the books in position in the package was so stiff that the cover page of my fast track and Digit got torn. I wish you could prefer some other idea to keep the book in position when it's packed. You could use some soft type of plasters, which will not cause any damage to the book. I wish you all best with the success you're achieving and that Digit magazine is going to achieve.

Mukesh

Thanks for the feedback. We'll try and package Digit more carefully in the future. We usually make sure that the packaging is tight so as to avoid the contents coming loose during transit, and getting misplaced or damaged. The tape we use is actually supposed to come off easily, and not damage the books, and we spend extra for that. It's surprising that this happened, and we'll look into this, and if necessary, get even better tape.

Robert

✉ I'm a very avid reader of your magazine. I always wait desperately for the 1st of every month to get hold of a copy of Digit. But I need to bring your attention towards something which I found very serious. I read a digital copy of PC Magazine every month too. I like the magazine (not as much as Digit, but just to get to know a little bit more about tech). The article is in the topic of "A concise guide to Android Rooting" which was published in your magazine in the October Edition of 2011. It's exactly the same as in the topic named "Android Rooting. What you should know before you try out" in the PC magazine's Nov. 2011 edition. It's word by word the same as yours. I also found that "Jill Duffy" was the writer there too. Can you let me know how two magazines could have the same article from the same author?

Gunjan Patro

We have a tie-up with PC Magazine Digital Networks, whom we pay to include some of their articles in our World View section. It's not a copyright issue at all – we don't ever commit plagiarism, which is why we give them the logo credit, as well as clearly publish the author's name.

Robert

✉ I'm a very hardcore fan of Digit. I read it regularly and am very happy about the October issue. It was terrific. The FT was also good, but I was inspired by the hard work you put in to get the issue delivered on time. That's a great job. Best of luck for the next set of challenges. My general knowledge in technology has improved since I started reading Digit. I liked this month's RSS feed too.

Harsha Halvi

We're glad to know that you enjoyed the issue and the hard work that goes into bringing out the mag on time to you each month. It's what keeps us motivated to bring out better content with each issue. Keep learning!

Robert

✉ I've been reading Digit magazine since the past 4 years. It has greatly influenced the way I see the tech world. This time I was very much interested in looking out

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Oh snap!
MIT scientists developed a chip that mimics brain synapse, a structure used to transmit information between neurons to and from your brain
http://onforb.es/ry4ACT

What's next?
China overtakes the US in smartphone sales due to discounts by big shots like Apple
http://reut.rs/tC3uS1

for the Java video tutorials provided on the DVD. Unfortunately this particular DVD is not running, while the other DVD does. So, please give me a solution, because I'm very much interested in learning Java.

Nithesh G

Thanks for writing in. Please write in to help@thinkdigit.com to get any faulty discs that you receive replaced.

Sambhav

✉ Hello Digit, I got addicted to you about 5-6 yrs back and have been watching/reading most of the letters addressed to the editor. I thought I must pen down a few lines which I think would further speed up your rising reader population.

1) Firstly, just open page 62 of the November issue and try reading the AMD FX CPU architecture. I have a 6/6 set of eyes but I failed to read that.
2) The next revolution to happen in the IT industry is the requirement of Cyber Security and Digital Forensics specialists in India. I would request you to enlighten and make way for the readers who are interested in these fields. If school-going kids and students get into this in the beginning of their careers. Digit would make a permanent place in their hearts.
3) It's my very personal opinion. Your stats/article on 700-crore worth loss to India was a waste. The corporate world working environment is still not stabilised. Manpower hours are being sucked at the expense of family time. Let the Indians play Farmville to maintain some interest at workplace.
4) I would request you to think about conducting some kind of annual workshop for a day or two in major metropolises to start with. These workshops can be on anything viz networking, hardware, software, security, forensics etc. These can be done on a nominal fee which I'm sure readers won't mind investing.
5) You may invite enthusiastic readers to submit articles to Digit.
6) Sixth, but not the last on priority, you guys are doing a wonderful work and I wish you all the best. I would be associated with Digit like always in some way or the other.

-Anupam

Thanks for your feedback and suggestions. Our apologies about point 1. About point 2, it's not the only field of importance. We have covered careers in security, and even done a Fast Track to Ethical Hacking in the past, however, there's more to tech than just hacking. When at work, if you do well, you earn more, or even if you just do your job quicker, you get paid more. What's better for your family, more salary or more gaming for you? Besides, the article was just for illustration purposes, to remind you that everything you do has consequences, and your time is really worth something – to you, your company or your business. We have conducted a lot of workshops in Mumbai and Delhi, and even webinars. We will continue that when we can. Readers are always welcome to submit original articles – written on their own, and not published anywhere else, either online or offline.

Robert

✉ I'm very disappointed with the November issue.

1) Please remember that there are other exclusive magazines for photography and mobiles.
2) Please focus on PC components.
3) On the cover page, you've mentioned "Tested Motherboards 30+ (including Z68 AND A75)" which means 30+ mobos tested plus p61, h67, p67, q67 chipset boards along with z68 and A75. But inside you have written "both Z68 AND A75".
4) At least dedicate 2-5 pages each to PC components. Students only buy these PC magazines.

Mannepalli Krishna

While I completely respect your personal opinion, I have to disagree with a few points. First of all, yes we do have a very heavy focus on PC hardware. We just can't do that every month, that's all. As for the motherboards (PC components, as you can see), we certainly weren't trying to mislead anyone, and if we did, we apologise profusely. We have much more than 5 pages dedicated to hardware, every issue. Also, you should know that students, businessmen, professionals, armed forces heroes, all of different age groups, and from both sexes are Digit readers. Although we love our large student community, it would be wrong to say that only students read Digit.

Robert

LETTER OF THE MONTH

One bright afternoon, I hurried
through my dwelling doorway
Smelling the postman, I pounced at him
Clutched open the package from
his hands, and my eyes went dim
As if discharging a strident shriek of dismay...

I glared at the charismatic DIGIT logo,
Out of the blue I felt nostalgic of
the 2 DVD-1 fast track issues,
Tears rolled down my cheeks and
I was soon short on tissues.
I wanted the same DIGIT that
came a few months ago...

A comprehensive scrutiny
made me ascertain that
Those 2 fast tracks promised a lot
of meticulously designed tweaks
Ample enough to quench every-
one's thirsts from their beaks –
Steady students, college vagabonds,
hectic businessmen and the army brats!!!

But the other DVD is still cher-
ished as the issues pass
It was matchless and had a distinct class,
But now it seems to be at a terminating brink
Yet the pen of prints lags
behind the visuals' ink.

All I would like to urge
Is to let the readers' opinion surge –
Past the dilemma of choosing from the two,
Because temptation to learn
is what we pursue!!!

Harshal Purohit, L.N.C.T. Bhopal.

Very well written, Harshal. Always good to hear from our more poetic readers.

Robert

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Norton by Symantec

*PassMark Software, "Consumer Antivirus Performance Benchmarks (2012)," September 2011

Role-playing game clichés
Well, they're fun sometimes...think you can add more to this huge list?
http://goo.gl/nnpkZ

Teens on social networks
69 per cent of teens on social networks say their peers are mostly kind to one another
http://bit.ly/tryYw0

WEB WATCH

Entrepreneurs rejoice! Free web sites

Google India's "India Get Your Business Online" programme is aimed at Small and Medium Entrepreneurs (SMEs) in the country. Besides free web sites, SMEs also get Google is also offering free internet domains, e-mail and a host of other services.

"While India is home to an estimated 8 million small medium businesses, only about 5 per cent have a web site. This



programme is designed to bridge the information gap that exists online due to the lack of presence of local Indian businesses on the Internet...The initiative aims is to break down the barriers that stop small businesses from getting online – by offering a quick, easy and free tool to set up and host a website.Our goal is to help 5,00,000 small medium businesses in India to get online in next three years through this programme," says Google India MD and Vice President (Sales and Operations) Rajan Anandan.

To avail the services, the business owners need to log in to www.indiagetonline.in, which features a range of free and easy-to-use web hosting tools powered by HostGator. Google is also offering personalised .in domain names, free tools, training and other relevant information. Moreover, HostGator will further provide free support in site hosting and management for one year.

India to have 121 million internet users by December end, says report

India is set to have 121 million net users by the end of this month, becoming the world's third-largest Internet market after China and the US. This means 1 out of every 10 Indians will be online. The figures were revealed in the annual ***I-Cube report*** jointly published by IMRB and the Internet & Mobile Association of India (IMAI).

According to the report, this figure was 100 million users in September this year. Another revelation was that out of 121 million, some 97 million users will be active internet users, who will browse the web at least once a month.

"A hundred million internet users is considered a critical landmark for the country. With this, internet use in India is expected to enter a critical period of growth with the possibility of becoming the largest internet using country in the world in this decade," says the study.

Firefox 8 released

Firefox 8 has officially been released, and comes with the usual slew of security and stability updates, as well as numerous new features.

Firefox 8's new check after installation lets you see the status of your add-ons' compatibility with the new version, and choose which add-ons to enable / disable. Additionally, Firefox 8 now automatically disables any add-ons installed without your permission.

Another feature of Firefox that can have a huge impact on power surfers with dozens of tabs open at a time, is a new load-on-demand feature for tabs. Firefox 4 changed the way tabs were loaded on session restore; instead of trying to load all at once, and hogging up the bandwidth, it loaded three tabs at a time. In Firefox 8, this feature has been simplified. Now you can opt to have your tabs load on demand. When you restore a session with multiple tabs now, Firefox 8 will load a tab only when you click on it.

Firefox 8 comes with numerous improvements to web standards support as well, such as support for the new HTML5 context menu, CORS support for cross-domain textures in WebGL, improved WebSocket support, CSS Hyphen support, as well as support for the insertAdjacentHTML DOM API.

Firefox for Android has also received an update, featuring support for a master password. It also allows adding bookmarked web applications as icons to the home screen for easy access.

Google online music store takes on Apple, Amazon

Google officially launched its Music Store. It aims to compete directly with Apple and Amazon in the online media segment. Google's cloud-based music service had been in beta phase since this summer. The store allows users to upload up to 20,000 songs for free.

It also allows users to set an online locker, very much like Apple's iTunes and Amazon's Cloud Player. Users can stream songs to various devices. Songs can be purchased online at the Android Market. Android-powered smartphones and tablet users can also use the service very soon.



The store features millions of songs from record labels EMI, Sony Music and Universal. To help popularise its new music store, the search giant will be providing one free song for download everyday.

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Google details 10 search tweaks

Google detailed 10 of the roughly 500 changes it makes each year
http://bit.ly/sxRD1I

Google to block autocomplete

Terms such as "naughty words" and "lesbian" won't show in autocomplete
on.mash.to/vPSKhz

The service also features an integration with its social network Google+. Users of the Google music store can directly share songs on Google+, where their friends can listen to the full song for free.

MOBILE WATCH

Light up your Christmas with Lumia 800 and 710

The "first true Windows Phone 7 devices" are here. Nokia Lumia 800 and 710 will hit Indian shelves by mid-December. Pricing will also become available then, but for now, the global suggested pricing figures are the rough



benchmarks – $580 (₹30,368) and $380 (₹19,896) for Lumia 800 and Lumia 710.

Both the phones will come with few unique features onboard utilising many of the Finnish giant's previous strengths, including superior optics and a solid battery life. The first of these is Nokia Maps & Drive, or Nokia Drive, which is the company's Navteq-powered turn-by-turn voice-guided navigation system, complete with 3D maps for 750 Indian cities, and 50 voice languages, including Hindi.

Also unique to the Lumia 800 and 710 is Nokia MixRadio, a new online music streaming service with global and local channels, which should launch with the devices. Both Nokia Drive and Nokia MixRadio will be free of cost. Paid Nokia Music Store services will also be available separately.

Another unique feature is Nokia ContactsTransfer, a utility that will allow users to transfer contacts across devices, and platforms. Relevantly, the Lumia 800 and 710 will also have App Highlights loaded. This is Nokia's version of Microsoft's App Connect, which will recommend applications to users based on personal preferences and usage characteristics, in this case, locally relevant apps.

We spent a short time with the Lumia 800 and 710 themselves, and came away impressed by the build quality of the two phones, the speed of the WP7.5 interface, and the free Nokia Drive navigation system onboard.

ASUS launches Transformer Prime with Tegra 3 and Super IPS display

Asus has finally launched the Eee Pad Transformer Prime, the successor to the very popular Transformer. The Transformer Prime, as its name suggests, will be the first tablet to officially sport Android 4.0 Ice Cream Sandwich, when Asus releases an update in early December. Till then, the Transformer Prime will run on



Android 3.2 Honeycomb with the company's Waveshare UI. Importantly, the Transformer Prime, when it starts shipping at the end of this month, will also be the first tablet to run on a quad-core SoC –the just released Nvidia Tegra 3 processor.

The Transformer Prime is slimmer, lighter, and more powerful than the original Transformer. Specifications include a 10.1-inch Super IPS LCD display with a 1,280x800 pixel resolution, just 8.3mm thickness and 568 grams in weight. Inside it has a 1GHz quad-core Tegra 3 processor with a 12-core GeForce GPU, 1GB RAM, choice between 32 GB and 64 GB of built-in storage and a microSD card slot supporting up to 32GB cards. It has an 8MP rear autofocus f2.4 camera with continuous LED flash capable of 1080p HD video recording and a 1.2MP front-facing camera. Other features include the Polaris Office editor, SRS sound enhancement, SonicMaster audio technology, a gyro sensor and a 12-hour battery life.

Motorola officially introduces Defy+ in India

Motorola has formally launched its Defy+ smartphone in India. Priced at ₹19,490, it's available at the online retail stores for a lot less.

Defy+ runs on Android 2.3 Gingerbread OS and is powered by a 1GHz processor. Here are the specs of the new Motorola Defy+: 3.7-inch TFT capacitive touchscreen, 5 MP camera with LED flash, stereo FM radio with RDS, 3G, EDGE/GPRS, Wi-Fi, Wi-Fi hotspot, GPS with A-GPS support and Google Maps,



Bluetooth 2.1 with A2DP, EDR, memory expandable up to 32 GB via microSD card and 3.5 mm jack.

Huawei's Ideos X3 and Sonic phones, MediaPad tablet

Three new Android devices are in India, this time brought to us by Huawei. The 7-inch MediaPad tablet will leave you short of ₹28,359, while the two "cloud phones", the Gingerbread-based Ideos X3 and Sonic cost ₹10,229 and ₹9,210, respectively. Exact availability hasn't yet been revealed.

Huawei is calling the 3.2-inch Ideos X3 and 3.5-inch Sonic cloud phones because of the Cloud+ service the Chinese

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Has Siri come of age?
Apple's voice-controlled 'personal assistant' Siri has got everyone talking
http://bit.ly/rwOHVp

$20m from one mobile game
Find out how two brothers made $20 million from *Infinity Blade*
http://on.mash.to/tbcI2T

telecommunications giant will be launching for them in the country. According to Anand Narang, MD Huawei Devices, Cloud+ features include 16 GB of cloud storage, an integrated social phonebook, richer messaging and phone finder services. Both devices will also come bundled with various social networking and instant messaging apps such as Twitter, Facebook, etc.

Despite running Android 2.3 Gingerbread out of the box, as well as its cloud storage features, the Huawei Ideos X3 and Sonic are still low-end budget devices on the inside – with 600MHz processors, 256 MB of RAM, 3.2MP cameras and low-resolution displays (320x480 pixels). The two devices will certainly face stiff competition. The devices can be procured with an Aircel operator bundle, including 3 GB of free downloads.

Samsung Galaxy Note hybrid in India for ₹34,990

Samsung has launched the Android 2.3.5 Gingerbread-running Galaxy Note in India, following a scheduled webcast today, pricing it at ₹34,990. The massive phone, bearing a 5.3-inch display, is also well-endowed with a 1.4GHz dual-core processor and 1 GB of RAM. The company calls it a smartphone-tablet hybrid, one that will give users freedom from multiple devices.

The Galaxy Note's 5.3-inch display has a 1,280x800 pixel resolution – a first for a mobile phone – and supports stylus input via Samsung's S Pen. Other specs include a Mali 400 GPU, 16 GB of built-in storage expandable via microSD card (up to 32 GB), an 8MP rear auto-focus camera with LED flash and 1080p HD video recording support, a 2MP front-facing camera, active noise cancellation with dedicated mic, and a massive 2,500 mAh battery. Samsung has reportedly also bundled its ChatON instant-messaging software with the device.



APP WATCH

Gmail app for iOS returns to App Store

After an unsuccessful attempt, Google has once again made its Gmail App for iOS available on the App Store. Google had to withdraw the app from the App Store as it received multiple complaints from users about the faulty notifications.

"Two weeks ago, we introduced our Gmail app for iOS. Unfortunately it contained a bug which broke notifications and displayed an error message, so we removed it from the App Store," blogges Matthew Izatt, a Google product manager. "We've fixed the bug and notifications are now working, and the app is back in the App Store."

Google also added that it had received several feedback for improvements to the app such as "bigger features like multiple account support to customisations like improved notifications and mobile specific signatures." "Based on your comments we have already improved our handling of image HTML messages—they are now sized to fit to the screen and you can pinch to zoom in," he wrote.

Samsung, BigFlix launch video-on-demand app, My Movies

Samsung and BigFlix have launched a video-on-demand service app called "My Movies", which offers users full-length movies and free video content for the first 2,200 hours. The My Movies app is available for Samsung Galaxy S, S II and Galaxy Tab 750 devices. Features films, music videos, TV shows, trailers...what more do you want? Expect subscription-based services shortly.

"The subscription service will allow the user to watch full-length feature films and over 1,000 movies with no interruption from advertisement... By providing consumers with India-relevant applications and rich content on our smart mobile devices like tablets and smartphones, we are seeking to make their experience with our devices more engaging and immersive," says Ranjit Yadav, Country Head, Samsung Mobile and IT.

Rovio's Angry Birds smashes 500 million downloads

We all knew at some point that *Angry Birds* had become an unstoppable part of pop culture but its developer Rovio reminded us in November how big it really has become – *Angry Birds* crossed 500 million downloads to becomes perhaps the world's fastest selling mobile game. All this in less than two years since we first launched the stressed out ornithoids at those unsuspecting pigs.

Rovio CEO Miael Hed regards this as a "fantastic landmark achievement" and promises to "remain committed to creating more fun experiences and bringing exceptional quality to Angry Birds Fans everywhere."

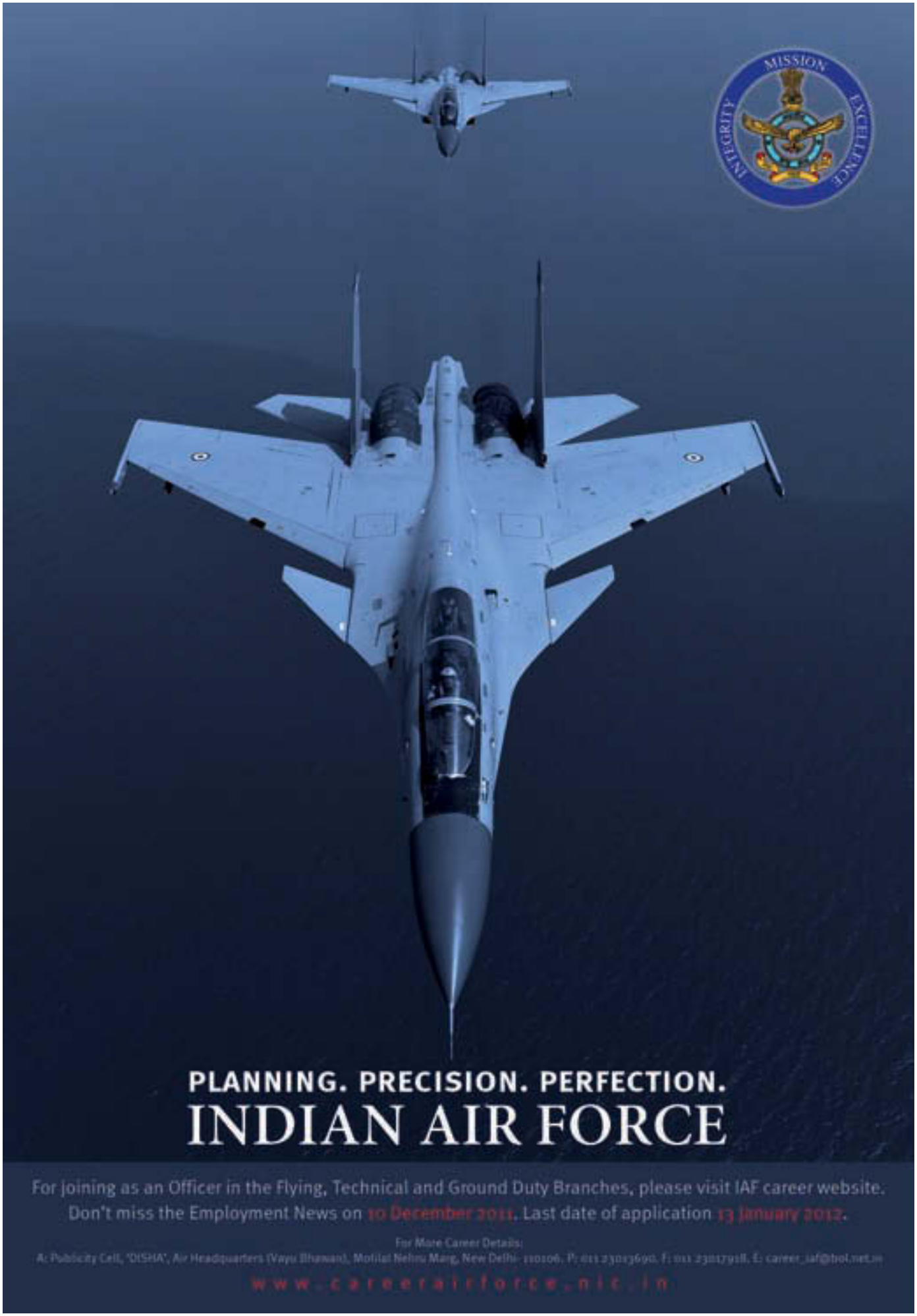
What's next for the game? Well, Rovio plans to open the world's first official Angry Birds retail shop in Helsinki, Finland. Angry Birds will also feature in the forthcoming Nokia Asha 300 and 303 S40 phones which, Rovio believes, will bring Angry Birds entertainment to completely new emerging mobile markets.

Let ShowNearby point the way

MapmyIndia, the digital navigation service provider, has launched a free location-based app for Android, BlackBerry and iOS operating systems. "ShowNearby" helps users search for places of interest nearby, such as petrol pumps, retail brands, tourist spots, emergency services, resturants and ATMs. The app is powered by digital map data from MapmyIndia.

ShowNearby automatically identifies the user's location and his distance to the spots via GPS based on which it displays information. Addresses and phone numbers of the places you want to go to show up on the screen. You can save the data on your phone and even share it with friends via SMS or e-mail. One more additional feature is the ability to search for deals at closeby outlets and brands.

The free-of-cost app will soon be available for the Windows Phone 7 operating system.


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Downloaded movie prices are about 30-50 per cent higher than buying an actual DVD
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The good old lending library is here in its digital format – but only for Kindle owners sadly

Kindle Owner's Lending Library for Prime subscribers

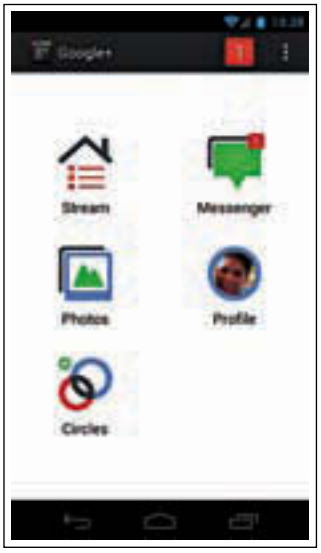
Amazon Prime members will now be able to borrow eBooks for free thanks to the Kindle Owner's Lending Library, a novel loyalty program. The only limitations is that you can only check out one book at a time. Since only Kindles are supported, this obviously will not sit too well with publishers. Amazon has thus only been able to start with around 5,000 titles on offer.

You can browse through the ebooks like you would any Kindle book making highlights, annotations and bookmarking – all of which will remain even if you end up re-borrowing or even later purchasing it.

Google+ app for Android gets new design, UI

Google has overhauled its Google+ app for Android, giving it a cleaner look and improved user interface. The revamped app supports the latest Android 4.0 Ice Cream Sandwich and includes various new features. The Google+ Android app, now Version 2.1, is available for download at the Android Market.

Besides the new UI, the new Google+ app seems more streamlined and easy to use. The design changes have been made keeping in mind the changes implemented in Android 4.0. To improve user experience, the notifications now appear on the top right. Also, users can now view enhanced and enlarged photos – this includes the profile pictures.



Improvements to battery life, notifications, navigation, overall performance and support for Google Apps.

SECURITY WATCH

Facebook attacked by spammers, did anyone notice?

A massive spam attack has hit Facebook, causing significant problems for the social network. Facebook accounts are being flooded with graphic images of violence and hardcore porn. More than two lakhs Facebook accounts from Bangalore have been attacked. Many of the users complained that their profile pictures have been put on porn sites. Globally, this figure is more than 60 lakh Facebook accounts.

Facebook released a statement acknowledging the presence of the virus and is presently investigating the matter. *The Christian Post*, which first reported about the virus, says the virus and spam attacks could be the work of notorious hackers group, Anonymous. (The hackers group had previously pledged to launch an attack on the social network).

The Facebook statement, accepting the existence of the virus said, "...Recently, we experienced a coordinated spam attack that exploited a browser vulnerability. Our efforts have drastically limited the damage caused by this attack, and we are now in the process of investigating to identify those responsible."

Later, Facebook said no accounts were hacked during the spam attack. It rejected reports of hacking of its users' accounts in India. It also denied claims that the profile pictures of its users were transferred to any unwanted site (see image alongside).

A lot of us, however, didn't even notice this, because the daily Facebook stream is a lot like the spam in our mailboxes anyway!



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After iPhone it's the Razer Blade
Someone has managed to whisk away two Razer Blade laptops from the company's R&D lab. Good news is the launch won't be delayed

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Secret Formula #1

The Indian F1 came and went, and we're all complain just a little less now when we're stuck in traffic. We are, afterall, part of an exclusive group now

Vishal Mathur
vishal.mathur@thinkdigit.com

If you thought that Formula 1 is only about sitting in a car and driving around quickly for a few laps every weekend, then you'd be utterly wrong. Because like most things, there's a lot of background hard work that we need to appreciate, and don't normally see on television!

We take a look at just some of the key aspects of Formula 1, and the thinking, engineering and regulation that go behind it, shaping the sport as we see it today – a technological marvel.

Aerodynamics

A bit of fighter jet inspiration

While an F1 car is meant to stick to the road all the time, design elements are hugely inspired by a fighter jet. That inspiration is applied in reducing the effect of drag when following another car closely. The drag causes the F1 car to be slower and also lose some of the grip while cornering. However, that's where this inspiration ends, because the second biggest concern for the designers is keeping the car on the road, at speeds that reach beyond 320 kmph. While they aren't very visible, there are more than a dozen wings on the car – big and small, that create downforce. The better the ability of the car to grip the road at speeds, the faster it can go. In the early 1970s, there was an experiment with higher rear wings and movable front wings. The resultant crashes we witnessed were nothing short of spectacular and extremely dangerous. Over time, regulations have been introduced that ensure that all F1 cars follow largely the same design, with safety being the primary concern.

The engine

Power, but not without reliability

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Google+ pages for business
Google has started rolling out Google+ to businesses and brands, allowing them to set up their own Google+ pages

Sony-Ericsson no more
Sony has bought out Ericsson's share of their decade-old joint-venture. The deal is scheduled for completion by January 2012

WHAT THEY SAID ABOUT THE BUDDH INTERNATIONAL CIRCUIT



"It's a nice, beautiful flowing circuit. I think they've done a really good job."

–Lewis Hamilton, McLaren

"They've done a great job with the circuit. "It's also pretty smooth, which is nice for a new circuit, and the layout is fun to drive. There are some pretty slow corners here, like Turn Three, which are quite tough but you've also got a lot of high-speed corners; it's a lot faster than what we thought it would be around here."-

– Jenson Button, McLaren

"There are quick left-rights, Turn Three is a unique corner, it's very slow but it's uphill and quite extreme on the elevation. Turn Four is also not straightforward, so they're both challenging."

–Mark Webber, Red Bull Racing

"It's very dusty to start with. It's dusty off line, which makes it tricky, so we'll have to make sure we stay on the racing line."

–World Champion Sebastian Vettel, Red Bull Racing

"It was not good to see animals running on the track. It's something that I'm sure the circuit will avoid and I'm 100% confident on Sunday that it will be no problem at all."

— Fernando Alonso, Scuderia Ferrari



F1 Engine: a beauty isn't it?



Brakes: from 300 kmph to a crawl in almost no time, and 10 times a lap!



Fuel: It's now as close to the fuel we use as it will ever be... just more refined

perform, yet remain utmost reliable. And it isn't more critical than for the engine. With the new regulations ensuring that teams have to use one engine for more than one race, the legendary quote from Ferdinand Porsche that the "perfect racing car is one that crosses the finish line first and then falls to pieces" doesn't really hold true anymore! The "turbo age" ended in 1989 with the new regulations, but during that time, engines were producing around 750 bhp. However, in 2006, the regulations were rewritten and the rules now state that all engines need to be 2.4-litre V8 engines. Power will fall further with the 2012 season, when the new regulations kick in, mandating smaller engines with even lesser power. The attempt is to reduce costs of being in the sport, while making F1 more environmental friendly.


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Nokia Asha S40 series
Asha messenger phones are expected by late 2011/ early 2012, featuring Nokia's improved browser for speedy browsing at low bandwidth

Nvidia Tegra 3 outed
Nvidia has launched its five-core Tegra 3 mobile chipset, featuring 5x the performance of Tegra 2

INTERVIEW

Behind the scenes, with a Ferrari electronics wizard

During the Formula 1 Indian Grand Prix race weekend, we caught up with Andrea Beneventi, Head of Electronics for Track and Test, who spoke in detail about the technological side of Formula 1. Here's what he had to say.

Tell us more about what the Electronics for Track and Test department does in F1?
Andrea Beneventi: We essentially look after two things - the electronics development and technology scouting. Looking for new technologies that are applied to our system and what can be used in another way on the Formula 1 car. We're also developing components, and every year we send a number of components for different installations in the search of more accuracy, in search of lighter components. So, we buy these components as they are, and modify it for the Formula 1 environment. Everyone uses these components in a different environment. For an extreme example, we can put an accelerometer on the engine while someone else is using it on the chassis, and you can understand it's a completely different environment for vibrations and it means that I have to take a component used on another car and validate it for installation on our car. Obviously, if we find a new technology that could be applied to an F1 car or to an area of F1, we give it to the R&D team.

The other area is the application area, for all the departments where electronics is used inside Ferrari. In particular, there's the race, there's the test, there are test benches for engine, gearbox hydraulic and also whenever the knowledge of the electronics department has to be given inside Ferrari as well as at the track where we provide support to our client teams – Sauber and Torro Rosso – also.

We also manage the KERS at the track. We, don't, however, make the project; there's a specific department that does that. The KERS is given to us and we manage it at the track, for tuning and logistics.

There's the development process we look at, and then we're asked to look for new technologies knowing the area where they have to be applied. We have 12 engineers and 25 people in total to manage things on the track.

The boundaries and parameters in F1 have become tighter and more controlled. In that scenario, how do you differentiate and innovate to gain an advantage over rivals?
AB: Possibilities in Electronics, in particular, are being quite reduced in the area of development. Because from the starting of 2008, a single ECU (Engine Control Unit) and signal system has been introduced by the FIA. This means that the main ECU, the software that is running on the ECU that manages the performance of the car or engine or gearbox or feedback to the drivers is something that's fixed. The hypothesis of this chapter is that the ECU must be able to control the car you have and not force you to have particular mechanical solution for your needs. Providing that would be just the management of your mechanics and it's not that you can do whatever you want with the software. In this area, a lot of work we did before is fixed, but, we now have more time to concentrate on other areas – managing the performance of the car. Another constraint over the last few years is the cost. In the last few years by agreement, we have what's called a "FOTA (Formula One Teams Association) budget", which is an agreement between the teams to have a maximum limit on the cost. An external company audits this. This has to be taken as a challenge because we cannot sacrifice performance. With a big cost reduction, we're talking about one-fourth of the budget we had six years ago, which is a big challenge. It's also a good challenge for us, technology wise. Sometimes, in order to reduce the cost, we have to jump to another technology. The reduction in budget isn't reducing the technology or the level of technology in the car. Compared to the car we had 10 years ago, the car now is technology-wise better.


Andrea Beneventi, Head of Electronics for Track and Test, Head of Support for Electronic Applications @Scuderia Ferrari

How does "telemetry" work? How is the data received from the car?
AB: There's a lot of data that's captured in the car, and downloaded from it. It's useful when we're changing the parameters. All the data that we have, that we receive from the car via the antennas on the car, are on the system provided by the FIA, so it's the same for all cars. The telemetry is not restricted. The data that is downloaded in real-time from the cars and the garage is stored on our server.

How much data does the car usually send out? How is that data deciphered?
AB: We get about 2 GB to 3 GB of data from each car over a race weekend. That data is collected in different ways. All data from the track is synchronised with the server in Maranello (in Northern Italy) via the data connection with bandwidth of about 6 Mbps. The data is then organised in various forms. We send the data from the track to Maranello where it's collected and stored. The setup in Maranello is an extension of our on-track system. The need for this arises because of logistics. The systems that we carry with us are powerful and light, but limited. Over there, for example, we can use more powerful desktop PCs, whereas on the track, we have limited machines, usually laptops.

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Sony Tablet S Lands

Sony has launched its 9.4-inch Android tablet in India, the Sony Tablet S, at ₹29,990 for the 16GB version

Motorola Motokey Social unveiled

Motokey Social is a budget Facebook phone which is more like the low-end Vodafone 555 Blue, than the HTC ChaCha or Salsa



Pit stops are a huge part of the strategy used by teams to gain advantages over the competition, and can be the difference between coming first or fourteenth even...



Just some of the excitement at the average F1 race that we gear heads live for...





The tyres are supposed to be as bald as this, and melt while driving



Tyres are kept warm, so that they can just be put on and raced with

The brakes

The need to slow down

Slowing down, or stopping an F1 car is serious stuff. Like road cars, F1 cars also use disc brakes. This is how they work – a rotating disc is flanked by two brake pads, one on either side. When brakes are applied, these pads converge onto the rotating disc, forcing it to slow down. Plenty of heat is generated, and sometimes you may have even seen the brakes glow red-hot. While brakes' sizes are regulated, performance depends on how the individual driver uses them. Particularly when it comes to how the brakes will respond in the latter part of the race.

The fuel

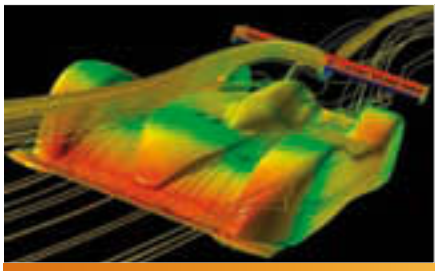
Correct mixture

Long gone are the days when benzene, alcohol and aviation fuel were mixed to run an F1 car. In an attempt to make it safer, the fuel now used is very close to what we see in a road car. However, with refueling now banned during races, the close link with engine's capability to drink less fuel gains paramount importance. An F1 driver can change the fuel mixture during the race, to either enhance engine performance or to consume less fuel.

KERS

Kinetic Energy Recovery System

Simple thinking here – capture the energy released during braking, and use it to offer an acceleration boost with the battery power. FIA regulations state that you can use KERS for about five seconds per lap, offering 80 bhp extra power during that time. The driver has the control for this. However, the size of the KERS unit is up to what the individual teams decide. Surprisingly, Red Bull Racing had the smallest KERS unit this season.



The entire design philosophy of an F1 car is to reduce drag and create downforce



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2378-771065-A00 April 2011



Oh the horror!
A Halloween special from Microsoft's Channel 9 team
http://bit.ly/vyR0Wy

Did you know?
The Duqu virus spreads through infected word files... talk about going back to your virus writing roots...

An insight into Go Daddy.com

The 'world's #1 domain registrar' spoke to us recently. Here's what Warren Adelman had to say on behalf of Go Daddy

Jayesh Shinde
jayesh.shinde@thinkdigit.com



Warren Adelman, President & Chief Operating Officer, The Go Daddy Group, Inc.

Google registers domains through Google Apps on behalf of Go Daddy. Are there any domain registrars in India that sell domains on behalf of Go Daddy?
While there are no registrars selling on behalf of Go Daddy in India, Go Daddy has hundreds of resellers within India. Go Daddy's reseller program provides a turn-key solution to help anyone create an online presence and market web services backed by 24/7 customer care and advanced technical infrastructure.

In addition to our resellers, GoDaddy.com is available in India, as well as in nearly 200 other countries.

What percentage of Go Daddy customers worldwide are Indian or based out of India?
About 20 per cent of Go Daddy sales come from outside the United States. While Go Daddy already has a strong presence in India, we still see it as a high-growth opportunity. The citizens are tech-savvy and every day, more and more people are getting online; especially in the mobile sector. GoDaddy.com ranks as the 62nd Most Visited web site in India and as the 68th Most Visited Web site in the world. (Alexa.com - 10/11/11).

Go Daddy likes to call itself the #1 domain registrar on the web. Who are its nearest competitors?
Go Daddy is the world's largest domain name registrar, by far. Recently, Go Daddy celebrated its mark on Internet history by surpassing the 50-million domain name milestone. The 50 millionth domain name is DBAkit.com, registered by Kranthi Kumar Kukkala of India. On any given day, Go Daddy registers more than half of all domain name registrations. In fact, Go Daddy registers, transfers or renews more than one domain name every second of every day.

How does Go Daddy promise to deliver 99.9 per cent uptime for its hosted plan users?
Go Daddy maintains world-class data centres around the globe. In order to better serve our Asian customers, we opened a data centre in Singapore to give visitors a faster load time to web sites. All of our data centers have fully redundant UPS Power Systems and plenty of bandwidth coming in to meet the needs of our customers.

Go Daddy understands the importance of making sure our customers' web sites are available to their visitors. Go Daddy's network is monitored by our 24/7 Network Operations team and protected from threats by our award-winning 24/7 Security Operations team.

In addition to the 24/7 Network and Security Teams, Go Daddy provides 24/7 customer care to all customers, helping them with any questions they may have.

Give us an insight on your datacenters, virtualization models, etc.
Go Daddy data centers feature fully redundant UPS Power Systems, N+1 Air conditioning units, advanced fire protection, suppression and detection systems, state of the art security technology and 24/7 physical security, plus more.

Go Daddy was in the "Cloud" before the term was coined. Our data center virtualization architecture is based on the concepts of elasticity and scalability. These concepts are often considered "Cloud" characteristics in today's hosting trends and we've been doing it for years.

In fact, Go Daddy has implemented "Cloud" capabilities in our various Go Daddy hosting products in several important ways:

1) Go Daddy's classic shared hosting product line evolved into 4th Generation Hosting (4GH). 4GH brings elasticity and scalability to Go Daddy shared hosting customers, while retaining the attractive product pricing and easy to use customer experience.

2) Go Daddy integrated elastic, scalable infrastructure into our virtual dedicated hosting product line. Customers can upgrade their virtual servers to larger sizes with a click of a button. A seamless upgrade configures the changes while the server is running.

3) Go Daddy has just launched Virtual DataCenter - Go Daddy's new Infrastructure-as-a-Service (IaaS) hosting offering — which allows customers to easily create a virtual data center, with multiple networks, load balancing, basic firewall and quick server spin-ups. In addition, this product provides a flexible billing model that allows customers to either pre-pay for resources (and save money) or pay-per-use.

As always, these products are backed by Go Daddy's unparalleled 24/7 customer care.

How do you dominate the global domain registration and web hosting market?
Go Daddy's success is attributed to the four pillars of our business model: customer care, value pricing, a wide array of products and aggressive marketing. Go Daddy knows the value of providing 24/7 world-class support to its customers at no extra cost. We understand people like to shop online, play games online and so on, but if they have an issue to resolve, they want to talk to a real person.

As Go Daddy continues to expand its international footprint, we'll keep the same high-level service our customers want, which is why we're looking at opening up more facilities globally. Go Daddy expects India to have a significant role in its international expansion; we believe India offers rich potential for an educated, computer-savvy

workforce that could serve our customers in that part of the world.

Future plans for India?
Go Daddy is looking to provide localised support in the Asia market. We want to do more "on the ground" in India, because we believe that the Indian market is a key piece to its international growth. India has a tremendous workforce with exceptional technical abilities – making India a prime place to help individuals and businesses expand their web presence. Go Daddy is all about helping its customers in the best way possible.

Go Daddy believes domain names are like "21st century real estate." There are 6.8 billion people in the world right now, and only 215 million registered domain names. Global Internet traffic is expected to quadruple between 2010 and 2015. This growth is expected to result in rapid expansion of "21st century real estate" in India.

How does Go Daddy make money?
The vast majority of revenue Go Daddy generates is from our subscriber base. We also receive revenue from online advertising and merchandising from our spokespeople.

What is behind Go Daddy's recent announcement about partnerships with KKR, Silver Lake and TCV?
The partnership between Go Daddy, KKR, Silver Lake and TCV will help in many areas but primarily it will help accelerate international growth. Additionally, these partners were selected because of their deep understanding of Internet technologies which may potentially help facilitate merger and acquisition opportunities.

Go Daddy's success can be attributed to innovative products and top-notch customer service. We're planning to become a bigger and better company. The existing management is planning to guide Go Daddy into new areas internationally, including India.

How does Go Daddy plan to stay focused on accelerating international growth with the current world economy?
Go Daddy helps to make small businesses get bigger. Founder Bob Parsons has frequently said that the "Internet is the heart of the new economy". Go Daddy is the on-ramp to the Internet – it all starts with a domain name. During recent years of global economic struggle, Go Daddy has grown sales in the double digit range. In fact, we've grown at that rate for the last seven years. We did it by providing quality products for a great price and backing it up with unparalleled customer care.

We know when it comes to solving a problem or figuring out how to improve their web site, people want to talk to people. We believe that extending this philosophy globally and providing a good value will allow us to rapidly expand throughout India and the rest of Asia.

Did the video of Bob Parsons shooting a wild elephant on BobParsons.me affect business?
Our business did not suffer any significant decrease.



Formula 1 in India
Don't forget to read our Formula 1 article on Page 20. Includes an interview with a Ferrari engineer...

Send free SMSes anywhere
Hotmail's Sabeer Bhatia has bought out a free SMS app called JaxtrSMS
http://bit.ly/vSXXgl

LEICA
M9 Titanium

Any shutterbug would know the true value of a Leica... this one, however, takes those accolades to a whole new level. Packed in a titanium case the M9's f/1.4 SUMMILUX-M lens is also made of solid titanium. The M9 is co-designed by Audi's design team. No wonder you have to shell out ₹14,21,000 to get your hands on one of these beauties



Things you wanted
all your life!!!

Rovio
WowWee

Here comes a mobile bot for surveillance enthusiasts who want to keep a third eye open and moving at all times. Rovio WowWee is capable of streaming audio and video imagery through Wi-Fi and bringing them to your monitor in real time. Rovio can navigate itself in your house once you set up way points for it to manoeuvre on. Never miss out on any action with the Rovio WoeWee



China leads the smartphone market
There are now more smartphones being shipped to China than any other country
http://bit.ly/rXazDK

Samsung's 40k-hour lightbulb
Available in the US, starting from $20 (₹1,042) and going up to $59.98 (₹3,126)
http://bit.ly/tdCNLH

Iron Man 2 Mark IV



If you happen to be an avid action figure collector then you need to get an Iron Man 2 Mark IV figurine. The figure's eyes, arc reactor and exhaust points glow in the dark – all powered by LEDs – with a touch of a button. The figure itself stands on a larger arc reactor model; cool!



MT55 Platform

Many such surface tables have, err... 'surfaced' over the years but the MT55 is unlike anything before – you can drop a bowling ball on it from 4 feet high, and nothing...not a scratch! The MT55 has a 55-inch LED multi-touch display with a solid state computer built into it. Capable of 32 touch points, the table is made of rugged aluminium. Buy one for a mere ₹879,550



Ducati 1199 Panigale

This beast has been recently let out of the Ducati stable and is touted to be the next benchmark superbike. Delivering a massive 195 hp @10,750 rpm with a 1198 cc displacement the Panigale sports a six-speed transmission. Aimed to be one of the most ambitious projects by Ducati, the Panigale is all yours for a mere ₹23,00,000



Yet another Facebook phone
A quick review on the yet-to-be launched MotoKey Social
http://bit.ly/twwR3W

Facebook impenetrable?
If you placed bets on Facebook still being functional, collect your dues.
http://bit.ly/sslQzo

A computer with a mind of its own, a lifeless monitor, a phone's memory problems

Digit helps you handle all these issues and then some more...

That déjà vu feeling

I'm facing an issue with my Pentium 4 PC. Whenever I shut it down, it goes into a restarting loop without me having given any such command. Kindly give a solution to my problem.

Shubham Bagwe

There can be many reasons for the constant system restart. First and foremost, run an anti-virus scan as there's a high possibility of some malware causing the system to go into the restarting loop on shutdown. Another thing you could do is repair your system. The "Repair" option can be activated using your installation CD. On being prompted to either "Install a fresh copy" or "Repair", select the latter to fix the issue.

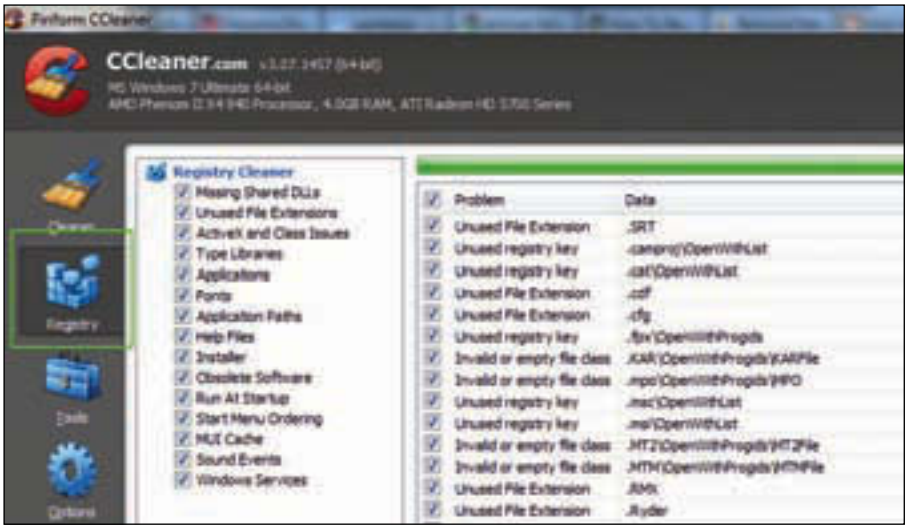
Try to ensure that your CPU is not running at very high temperatures. You can download utilities such as SpeedFan to check the CPU core temperature. Sometimes, if the CPU heats up a lot, it will automatically restart the system.

If you want to get further to the bottom of the issue, try disabling the Automatic Restart feature. To do this right-click on My Computer and go to `Properties > Advanced System Settings > Startup and Recovery > Settings.` Uncheck the "Automatically restart" option. So the next time when there's a system failure, you'll get a blue screen of death with some error message, which will pinpoint the issue.

The late starter

I brought my Dell Inspiron 5110 laptop a few days ago. It had the following configuration: Intel i5 processor@2.40 GHZ, 4 GB RAM and 64-bit OS. Right from the beginning, I've been experiencing a problem; it takes almost more than two minutes to bring the screen to the desktop. Is it a virus problem? It has McAfee antivirus running on it. Please help me.

Subhranshu Chowdhary



Use CCleaner to clean up your registry entries

It may not necessarily be a virus problem. If you've set many of your applications to initialise on startup, then it will take some time to get the system to start. Go to Start and enter "msconfig" in the search box. You'll have a pop-up showing a few tabs. Under the Startup tab, you can see all the programs that load when the system starts up. If there are lots of programs/applications ticked in this, then it's wise to uncheck the ones you don't need to start up with the system. But critical applications such as an anti-virus program should ideally be left enabled.

If reducing the number of programs on startup isn't helping, then you might want to clean your registry entries. Use CCleaner. As a bonus, it also backs up the registry changes.

No signal

I'm facing a very big problem. Whenever I turn on my PC, the AOC monitor displays "no signal" with even the BIOS screen not displaying. I've checked every cable, RAM and CPU fan – all are working well. Why then does my monitor display no signal? I don't have a graphics card on my motherboard. It's really killing me. Please help.

My configuration is:

- **RAM:** 1GB
- **Processor:** Intel dual core

Revive your dead monitor



- **Motherboard:** Asus
- **Hard drive:** 320 Seagate

Tallo Kano

Just disconnect everything. Remove the CMOS battery and use the BIOS reset on the motherboard to reset everything. Remove your RAM sticks, use an eraser to rub the contacts, and then re-insert properly. Re-insert the CMOS battery and start up the PC to see if it works.

If this doesn't work, get your power supply checked, and also your motherboard. Make sure you have a PC speaker, or try and remember if your PC used to beep when starting earlier. If it used to, you have a speaker, and you should try disconnecting all hard drives, RAM sticks, DVD drives, etc., and try starting up with just the motherboard connected to the power. If you don't hear any beeps, it's probably your motherboard, and you will have to give it for repair, or get it replaced.

In limbo

I've been a regular reader of your mag and like the bit.ly links. Thank you for providing the nerds with their own staple mag :)

I have a Compaq Presario laptop, it's just two months old. I've installed Windows 7 x64 (Home premium). Recently, I installed *Pocket Tanks* but on launching it, the game just hangs at the welcome screen as if there's no hardware support for it. The touchpad becomes unresponsive. I also tried installing *Limbo* and had the same thing happen. I even installed DirectX 9c (since the game couldn't fire without it). However, it continues to give the error "0x000007c".

I'm fed up of this since I can easily play *Counter-Strike* but not *Limbo* or *Pocket Tanks*. Please help.

Varun Jindal



Compaq C700

The good ol' *Pocket Tanks*? That would need dosbox to run. You can get it from dosbox.com. You could also install Windows XP mode and run the game in that. For *Limbo*, just check the minimum system requirements. Since you haven't told us what configuration your Compaq is, we can't really give you a proper answer. However, *Limbo*, as far as we know, needs a GPU that supports Shader Model 3.0, and your laptop may not be capable of that. CS is that popular in India especially because of the low system requirements – it will run on pretty much anything!



iPhone 4S available
While we're closing issue, Airtel and Aircel announced midnight launches of the 4S for India

Offline Forum?
On the Digit DVD this month, you'll find an offline browsable version of the Digit forum. It's jam packed with hardware troubleshooting tips and much more...

Salsa issues

I've been using HTC Salsa since the past few months. The problem I'm facing has to do with the phone's internal memory. Of the available 150 MB internal memory, most is consumed by preloaded applications which I can't uninstall. Moreover, many applications once downloaded are saved in the phone's memory instead of on the SD card, due to which the phone shows a low internal memory warning many times.

Please help me in this regard. The phone came with a 2GB SD card, of which more than 1 GB is lying empty.

Dr Pankaj Gandotra

You can always move the downloaded apps from your phone memory to your SD card. Go to `Settings > Applications > Manage Applications.` Select the applications and move them to the SD card by clicking on that button saying "Move to SD card".

Not a Samsung Corby

I brought a Samsung Wave 525 phone about three months back. Since then, it's been giving lots of problems – the most irritating of them is that it hangs too much. Even swiping the screen to unlock takes more time than usual. When moving from one tab in the browser to another, the phone hangs. Is there any way of improving my phone's performance? I've already tried the authorised service centre, but not much help was provided. I've even scanned my phone with Norton Antivirus many times, but performance didn't improve. Its performance is much poorer as compared to the previous models from Samsung like the Corby. Please help as I'm frustrated by repeatedly formatting my phone to improve its performance.

Subroto Goswami

You might want to try updating the firmware. You can do this by installing the Samsung Kies software on your system. Once the Kies application is installed, connect the phone to your system. You'll be prompted to install new firmware if you're still running old firmware.

Also, try not to run many applications at the same time. You can use an advanced task killer app to kill unwanted applications running in the background.

Memory loss

My PC configuration is:

- **Processor:** AMD Athlon II X4 645
- **Motherboard:** Gigabyte GA-890GPA-UD3H
- **RAM:** Kingston 4GB DDR3 1333Mhz
- **Hard drive:** Seagate 1 TB

I installed genuine Windows 7 Ultimate 64 bit OS knowing that it can use the full 4GB of RAM but after installing , when I went to the system properties, it said "Installed Memory (RAM) : 4.00 GB (3.50 GB usable)". My Processor also supports 64 bit OS. Please help me solve this problem.

Prashant Lakra

So you have an issue where you're sort of losing 500MB of RAM. First of all, see if your BIOS is the latest one by logging onto Gigabyte's web site and checking out the Downloads section of your motherboard page.

You haven't mentioned what graphics card you use. In case you don't have a graphics card, maybe the onboard video is using some part of your system RAM. This is common as sometimes the onboard video is unable to cope with the workload. You can go into the BIOS and see how much memory is allocated for onboard video. Try changing that to what you feel should leave you with enough space on the memory.

In case you have a graphics card and are still getting this message, the Go to `msconfig > Boot tab > Advanced Options.` Here set the maximum memory to 4096 (your total RAM value). Click on "Apply" and then "Ok". Now restart your system to see if the complete RAM is being utilised.

Also try enabling the Memory Remap feature in the Advanced settings of your BIOS.



Not a Samsung Corby?


System properties


BAJAJ
Distinctly Ahead
PULSAR, NOW
WITH SPEED LINES.
AVAILABLE ON THE 220, 180 AND 150. PERFORMANCE NEVER LOOKED BETTER.
DTS-i
POWERED
pulsar
INDIA'S NO.1 SPORTS BIKE
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Do not attempt stunting without adequate training and essential safety gear.
OBM 9693

PDF archives
Don't miss the PDFs of past issues of Digit on the Digit DVD. That's a lifetime of reading for most

Google's self-driving cars
The project is still far from being viable, but Google has set up a demonstration system on its campus **http://bit.ly/pEy3hE**



DOOM, This case modder went so far as to recreate the air-lock from *Doom 3*. Let your imaginations run wild...

Bored with the bland computer cases available in the market? We help you get started on the case of your dreams. A dream that you can bring to life yourself

The MOD monster!

Anirudh Regidi
readersletters@thinkdigit.com

A case mod is not just about making a PC look cool, it's about expressing yourself, showing the world what your PC can be, not just a "black box" (in cabinet terms, black is the new beige) that houses your precious hardware. Case mods need to be functional as well and air flow has to be intelligently managed. There's no point in a killer case mod if it actually "kills" your hardware is there? The tools you'll need will depend entirely on how you plan to modify the case. Some things that you'll require regardless are a vivid imagination, a certain degree of muscle power (a rarity among us geeks) and prowess with power tools (hah!).

Before we begin, a small lecture on airflow. As you must already know, good airflow is a must if you want to keep your hardware cool. The airflow must be sensible and not just haphazardly flowing over your components; just because you have open side panels need not mean that your components are being cooled. Dust is also a very big issue and as important to manage as the airflow. It can clog up your heat sinks, impede airflow and generally create a mess. Your cooling fans and vents must be positioned in such a way that the airflow over your components is as smooth and as uninterrupted as possible as turbulent air can create pockets of higher temperature. The best way to achieve this is proper cable management, try to design or purchase a case that allows you to place the extraneous cables behind the motherboard. Cable ties and sleeves will come in very handy here. Based on the design, you usually end up with a positive pressure case or a negative pressure one. In the case of the latter, dust will enter the case through passive intakes or vents and in the former, dust will enter via the intake fans. Placing dust filters in such areas is highly recommended.



A spare wheel? Not at all. A peek at what a dedicated modder can do

Good quality 120 mm fans from companies like Thermalright and Noctua, etc. can easily set you back by as much as ₹1,000 or more.

Simple case mods involve cutting a hole in a side panel, placing LEDs, extra fans, etc. You can easily get electroluminescent cables and LEDs and such from hardware stores. UV reactive tubes can give an

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Top 10 Fast Tracks
The Digit DVD you got along with this issue has PDFs of the 10 most popular Fast Tracks Digit has ever published

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Remember to complete our Icons of Trust survey, and rank tech brands based on your experiences. Lucky winners get prizes, everyone contributes to better experiences for Indians – http://www.thinkdigit.com/trust

eerie glow to your cabinet; just make sure to install UV lights or you'll be left with only coloured tubes! For a true case mod however, forget the traditional cabinet designs. Let your imagination run wild. People have built computers into mannequins, microwave ovens, toasters, desks, alloy wheels and even remote control cars and stuffed teddy bears. Other than the usual limitations of having your CPU on the motherboard, among other things, your HDD, PSU, etc. can be placed wherever you like and their location and orientation is limited only by cable length. Slot loading ODDs are superb as you can mask them very easily; PWM fan controllers with LCDs look really cool and you can also carefully manage your airflow with them.

Before starting work on the case make sure that you're very clear about what it is that you want to make. Blueprints in the form of rough sketches, at least, are a good idea. Once you know what you want, it's time to choose the materials. While doing this, bear in mind the weight of the components that you'll be using. PSUs are heavy and would require a correspondingly sturdy material. The motherboard also needs proper support. While you don't require a flat surface to mount the motherboard on, you must ensure that the screw mounts are level and isolated. Graphics cards and CPU coolers can also be quite heavy and your motherboard should be mounted in such a way as to distribute the load uniformly. When mounting acrylic sheets in a panel, ensure that the sheet is mounted using rubber strips held together with silica gel or something similar. You wouldn't want it to keep popping out, would you? Basically, once you're clear about the key support points, the motherboard screw-holes, hard disk and optical disk mount points, graphics card screws, fan/radiator mounts, etc., you can then freely do what you like with the rest of the design. Make liberal use of masking tape. You can tape up, say, a side panel in which you want to fit a window and then sketch a neat shape that you want to carve. That way, you can easily modify your design at the last minute without damaging the surface finish of your panel.



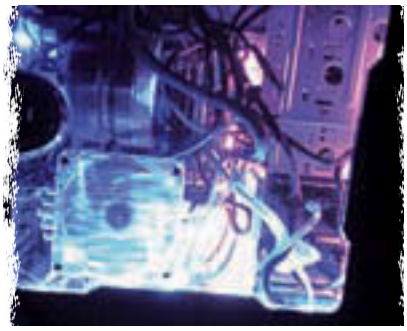
A "steampunked" case mod



Go wild with LEDs and UV reactive tubes!



One of the more tame case mods.



An example of bad cable management.

Materials like plaster of paris can be used for masking areas, as well as for creative modelling. You can quite easily design a castle with crenelated walls and gargoyles strewn all over the place,

SAFETY FIRST

Under any circumstances, please remember that your safety is of the utmost importance while building or modding your case. Safety goggles and gloves, etc are needed, but you also need to know what you're doing. Ignorance is not bliss in this case, it will more likely result in a chopped off finger or a few missing teeth. You don't want to put your actual blood and tears into your work. Power tools and even hacksaws and tin snips can be extremely dangerous and unless you have had previous experience with them (mechanical engineers rejoice!), DO NOT mess around with them without proper supervision. Read all safety instructions first before proceeding and when messing with paints and chemicals, ensure that you have a face mask as sometimes the fumes can be poisonous.



Who says you need a box?

or make the case look like some craggy mountain or some sort of hideous beast, like maybe a grinning chimpanzee whose mouth hides your USB slots. Be sure not to impede the functionality of the case by covering up some handy screw hole or button.

Now for the finishing touches. Putty is good. A bit of sanding and grinding will get rid of sharp edges. Sandpaper should suffice but you might need something stronger depending on the materials you chose. A lick of paint can give your case that much needed colour. Spray paint is the easiest option. If you have access to a proper garage and workshop, you can even try automotive paint to give your case a more professional look. Apply varnish as well so as to preserve the paint.

Don't forget to post the pics on our facebook and twitter pages! Who knows, the best case might end up getting featured in the magazine!

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MAC OS X

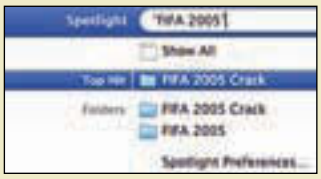
Apple has always been the epitome of easy-to-use products; the Mac OS X is no exception. Here are a few handy tips to further increase ease of use, tricks you never knew and a few interesting software all Mac users must have.

Spotlight

Let's start with one of the most highly used features of the Mac OS X – Spotlight. It rests on the top-right corner of the home screen represented by a magnifying glass, which you can click to open the feature. Alternatively, press `[Command] + [Space bar]`. You probably already know that you can use it to search for files, folders or to launch applications. These following tips will help you further filter your search.

Search in Spotlight

If you search for anything using quotation marks, Spotlight will only look up for files and folders



Search in Spotlight

that contain the exact term inside the quotation mark. You don't need to complete the quotation marks; starting the search with open quotes tells Spotlight that it should search for items that include the words that follow.

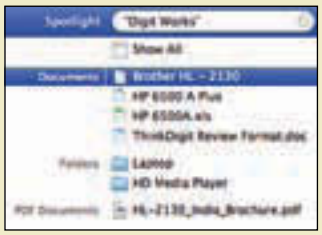
Search using metadata

Apart from searching for files and folders, Spotlight further searches for metadata, viz file information created during its generation. If you control-click any file or folder and open the Get Info window you'll find all the metadata the file stores. The interesting part here is that the file information is not limited to that data, which means you can add your own keywords to every

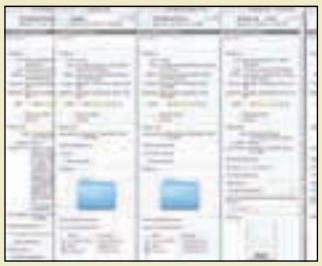


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Tips & Tricks has its own page numbers, and does not follow the rest of the magazine's page numbers. This is done to ensure that you can cut out and save T&T in a separate folder for later reference.



Use metadata info to search



Add metadata

file. To do so, in the same Get Info window, you'll find a box that reads "Spotlight Comments:"; here's where you can add your comments. You can now direct Spotlight to search for the file you want based on this data.

More tips to further limit your search

If you know the exact name of the file for which you're searching, type name:file.

If you know the author of the file, use author:author name.

If you know the type of file, use kind:type of file.



Further streamline your search

You'll be surprised by how much Mac lets you exploit this feature and understands exactly what you need. Your keyword for "kind:" can include almost anything i.e. movies, email, audio, MP3, JPEG, PNG, images, keynote, word, PowerPoint, QuickTime, PDF, app, etc.

You can also use a combination of all of the above to further narrow down your search.

Look up definitions with Spotlight

In Spotlight, just type in the word for which you want a definition. You'll see that a short definition appears in the search results. To expand the word's definition just let your cursor hover over it and you'll be able to view the entire definition.



Define words with Spotlight

Calculate with Spotlight

Yes, you can use Spotlight as a calculator, all you need to do is type in the desired math equation. For example, type 55*55/100+50 and you'll get the answer 80.25. It's as simple as that and you no longer need to find the Calculator app unless you want to perform complex equations. To find the square of a





Find square root

number, just enter `pow(5,2)`. Likewise you can enter `sqrt(number)` to find the square root.





Calculate with Alfred

Alternatively you can use Alfred, a productivity application. It's available in both, free as well as paid package. The paid version of the app can increase your productivity manifold. It's a great app to have.

Spaces and Exposé (Leopard and Snow Leopard)

They are the second-most used features in Mac OS X. We guess everyone knows what exactly Spaces and Exposé do but here are a few tips we're sure you didn't know of.



Move windows while holding down [Shift] or [Command]

While in Exposé, press [Tab] to move through various open apps and their specific windows in Exposé mode (called Exposé's Application Windows). However, in Snow Leopard, when you use Exposé's Application Windows mode, Exposé will present to you all the windows from that selected application regardless of which Space they are present in i.e. if you have a Word document open in four different Spaces, Exposé will show all of them on the screen and if you select the document from a different Space other than the current Space, Exposé will directly take you to that Space.

While in Spaces, say you want to move an application window to another Space and while doing so, you want all the open windows of that application to be moved simultaneously. In such a case, all you need to do is press down either [Command] or [Shift] while moving the application's window and you'll find that all the open windows of that application have been moved to the desired Space.

Navigate with your keyboard in Finder

This trick definitely saves a lot of time. Say you're in a particular folder and want to search for a particular file but the folder contains many files, hence scrolling to find it would prove difficult. Here's a simple solution: highlight the window you're in and start typing the name of the file. You'll find that your desired file has been found and highlighted.

Use Windows title bar icons

Let's say you have a file open, for example a JPEG file, and you want to check where exactly the file lies or you want to move it to another location. You'd normally open up the Finder, try to remember where you had saved it, if lucky then navigate to the folder and if not you'd open up Spotlight, search for the file, figure out the saved path and then navigate to the desired folder. Here's an easier way to do the same and you'll really be amazed at how much time it saves once you learn how it works. Most programs have an icon to the exact left of the file name in the title bar of the window. This icon represents the actual file. Now to find where exactly this file is saved all you need to do is either control-click or right-click the icon. This will open up a menu displaying the folder structure of the file; clicking on any of the options will open the same in Finder. Now, if you want to move the file, all you need to do is click and hold the icon and then drag and drop it to the desired place and voilà, it's done. Now, a thing to note here is that with certain applications like TextEdit and formats like PDF, an alias of the file is made rather than moving the actual file.



Talk to your friends on GTalk, MSN, etc with Adium

IMPORTANT KEYBOARD SHORTCUTS	
Action	**Keystroke**
New Finder window	[Cmd] + [N]
Close a window	[Cmd] +[W]
Quit an application	[Cmd] + [Q]
Copy and Paste	[Cmd] + [C] and [Command] + [V]
Switch between apps	[Cmd] + [Tab]
Open Spotlight	[Cmd] + [Space]
Force-quit apps	[Cmd] + [Option] + [Esc]
Open Front Row	[Cmd] + [Esc]
Start up in Verbose mode	Press and hold [Cmd] + [V] during startup
Sleep immediately without confirmation	[Cmd] + [Opt] + [Eject]
Restart immediately without confirmation	[Cmd] + [Ctrl] + [Eject]
Shutdown immediately without confirmation	[Cmd] + [Opt] + [Ctrl] + [Eject]
Show dialog with Restart, Sleep and Shutdown options	Ctrl] + [Eject]
Put display to sleep	[Ctrl] + [Shift] + [Eject]

Take screenshots

Just press down `[Command] + [Shift] + [3]` and you'll hear a click sound. The image is captured and will be saved to your desktop. Pressing `[Command] + [Shift] + [4]` gives you the option to choose the area you want to capture. Pressing `[Command] + [Shift] + [4]` followed by [Space] will allow you to take the screenshot of a window without needing you to select the area manually. In case you want the image to be saved to the clipboard, you need to press [Control] + [Command] + [Shift] + [3]. The same applies to the other two commands; just remember to hold down the control button when you want to save the image to the clipboard. Alternatively, you can use Grab, the application which comes bundled with your Mac OS X.

Accurately control volume

Usually when you increase or decrease the volume in Mac you notice that it reduces or increases by one box. For those who need more accurate volume control press `[Option] + [Shift] + [Volume Up/Down]`; you can now set the volume half way or quarter way down the box.

NTFS 3G and MacFuse

If you haven't already realised, Mac can read a NTFS volume but can't write them. Go ahead and

MAC STARTUP TRICKS	
Action	**Keystroke**
OS X safe boot	Press and hold [Shift] during startup
Force OS X startup	Press and hold [X] during startup
Choose startup disk before booting	Press and hold [Option] during startup
Start up from a CD or DVD	Press and hold [C] during startup
Start up in FireWire Target Disk mode	Press and hold [T] during startup
Bypass primary startup volume and to choose a different startup volume	Press and hold [Cmd] + [Opt] + [Shift] + [Delete] during startup
Eject CD on boot	Press and hold the mouse button once you push the power button
Startup in Single-User mode (command line)	Press and hold [Cmd] + [S] during startup
Start up in Verbose mode	Press and hold [Cmd] + [V] during startup
Sleep immediately without confirmation	[Cmd] + [Opt] + [Eject]
Restart immediately without confirmation	[Cmd] + [Ctrl] + [Eject]
Shutdown immediately without confirmation	[Cmd] + [Opt] + [Ctrl] + [Eject]
Show dialog with Restart, Sleep and Shutdown options	[Ctrl] + [Eject]
Put display to sleep	[Ctrl] + [Shift] + [Eject]

install NTFS 3G, which will by itself install MacFuse . Voilà! You can now read and write a NTFS volume on Mac. Now, you can also use disk utility to format a drive to NTFS format. Sadly, a Mac OS X Lion supported version is not out yet.

Adium

It's an Open Source instant messaging application for the Mac OS X. It supports most IM networks including Google Talk, Yahoo Messenger, AOL, Twitter, MSN, Facebook etc. You can update your Facebook status, talk to friends on Google Talk or Yahoo Messenger all under one application. An excellent application to have especially if you're a social buff.

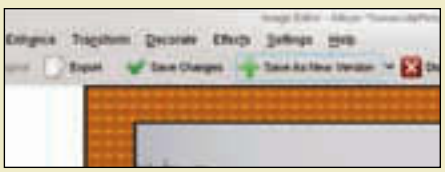
ShakesPeer

If you've been searching for a Direct Connect client for Mac OS X, look no further. ShakesPeer is an Open Source DC client with an extremely easy-to-use interface. Plus, it's absolutely stable.

Other cool things your Mac can do:

Slo-mo with Mac

While minimising or maximising Windows or while using Exposé or Spaces you can slow down the way the process takes place. All you need to do is hold down [Shift] while doing the above mentioned tasks. This looks really cool, try it.



Save as new version

Get the Apple logo

Ever wanted to put the Apple logo in your documents? Here's how you can:

In TextEdit or Google Docs, hold down `[Option] + [Shift] + [K]`. There! You have your very own logo .

Make your Mac talk

January 1984 – the year Steve Jobs unveiled the first Apple Macintosh, the year we all first heard a Mac speak. For those of you who haven't been able to figure out how to make your Mac talk, here's how to do it. Open up Terminal and fire in this command: `say "whatever you want it to say"`. It's that simple. You can even ask your Mac to read out from a .txt file. Fire in this command: `say -f ~/Desktop/test.txt. Replace ~/Desktop/test.txt` if the file you want to be read from is placed elsewhere.

Alternatively, in TextEdit go to `Edit > Speech > Start talking` and Mac will read out all the content from the .txt file.

Invert colours

If you're bored looking at the same coloured screen time and again, here's a cool twist you can add to your Mac. Just press [Control] + [Option] + [Command] + [8]. Enjoy the new look.

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Zoom into anything anywhere

Hold down the control button and scroll up to zoom in and scroll down to zoom out.

digiKam

digiKam is arguably one of the most – if not the best – comprehensive digital photo management tools available for Linux and it puts even some commercial software to shame. Those who use KDE on Linux should be aware of this application since it is often



digiKam listing the original image along with derived images and the operations used to derive them

the default photo management tool included.

It has an impressive feature set including an advanced image editor with features such as non-destructive image editing, versioning, face recognition and similar photo search. Complimenting this are the large number of plug-ins and support for all major image and metadata formats.

Run digiKam on Windows

While digiKam is part of KDE and was designed and developed for Linux, it's written in the cross-platform Qt framework, and has thus been ported to Windows as well. Porting KDE to Windows is a part of a larger project.

digiKam for Windows can be acquired in two ways. You can either download it as a stand-alone software from



Scan for faces

the digiKam web site (http://www.digikam.org/), or you can download it as a part of KDE for Windows from the KDE Windows project web site (http://windows.kde.org/).

We recommend the second method, as digiKam has many KDE dependencies that are included with the Windows version and push its size to around 250 MB. On the other hand, installing it using the KDE for Window installers might take up 300 MB or more, but it includes many more KDE applications.

Version your images with digiKam

Since digiKam supports image versioning, it's possible to store multiple copies of the same image with different edits.

You can edit images in digiKam's editor either by selecting them and pressing [F4], or right-clicking and selecting "Edit..." Make all the edits you want, however instead of saving the image, click on "Save As New Version".

Clicking on the "Save as new version" button will leave the original image untouched.

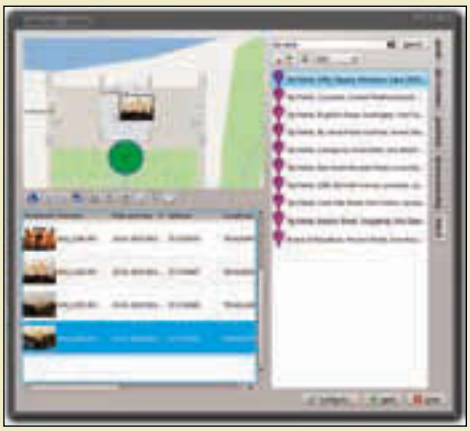
This will save the new edited image in the same album as the original and add the edited image to the history of the original image. This way you can browse through all the edits of an image from the imager versioning panel, and even see the edit operations applied between them.

Face recognition

While the facial recognition tools in digiKam aren't as powerful as those in Picasa, they can still be useful if you choose to use digiKam as your primary photo management tool.

To start the process:

- Click on people on the left of the interface (or click on the menu and go to `Browse > People`)



Tagging images taken at the Taj Mahal by dragging and dropping them where the image was taken

- Click on "Scan collection for faces"
- Run the scan with the default options

Advanced options let you control the accuracy of the detection.

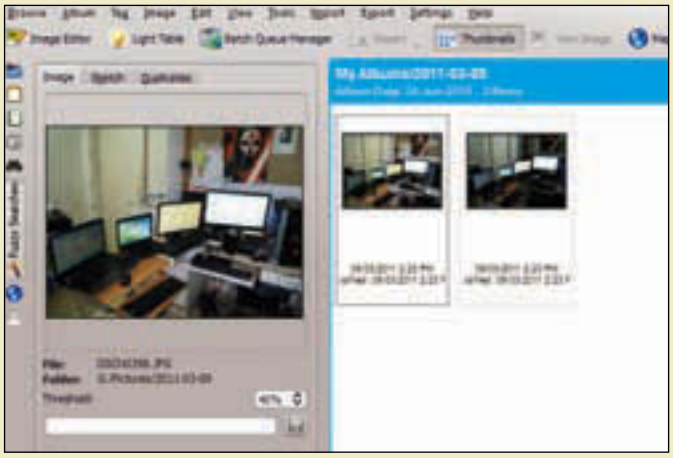
Once the scan is complete, digiKam would have identified whatever looks like faces in your photographs. Like any facial recognition system, there will be misidentifications (i.e. faces not recognised, and non-faces recognised as faces). digiKam will only identify faces, but not recognize them. You'll need to add the tags yourself.

Quickly geo-tag images

Many point-and-click cameras don't have GPS, which can make geo-tagging images quite a pain after you're done taking hundreds of shots. Luckily, digiKam is quite helpful here as well.

digiKam offers a simple drag -and-drop interface for geo-tagging your images. Here's what you need to do:

- Select the images you wish to geo-tag
- Click on the menu, go to `Image > Geo-location`
- In the dialog that opens up, click on the Search tab on the right
- Search for the location of the shot, and select the best matching location
- The images you had selected will be visible in a list below, simply drag and drop them onto the map above



Searching for similar images



Searching for duplicate images

- You can drag each image individually into place if you took shots around a location and also select multiple images and drag them to the same place.
- Click on "apply"

Your images are now geotagged!

Fuzzy Searches

An image is worth a thousand words, unfortunately, even if you could describe an image in a thousand words, your computer may not be able to find it. Images aren't words, you so searching for images has to be more than about searching for words. Fortunately digiKam has exactly such a thing.

digiKam includes a Fuzzy Search feature that searches for images based on images – something on the lines of Google's new Image Search. If you provide it one image and a threshold it will look for images that are similar to the provided image within the threshold. Another option is to make a rough sketch of the image as you remember it, and digiKam will return similar images.

You can find similar images by right-clicking on an image and selecting "Find Similar..."

To search for an image based on a sketch, you can use the Fuzzy Search panel accessible on the left of the interface. Here you'll find three options: image (search based on similar images), sketch (searching for images based on a sketch) and duplicate image search.

Searching for duplicate images

Duplicate image search is more than just about duplicate files, but duplicate image data. So two images with different sizes



digiKam options for metadata storage



(i.e. resized) will show up here, and you can delete the lower quality versions. You can also use the similar image search tool to look for shots that look similar and delete / mark the versions that look bad.

Configure what metadata goes in files

Since digiKam can manage metadata both in files and in a database, it's important to consider what kind of data should go where. The metadata added to files is accessible to whoever has access to the files. On the other hand, the metadata stored in a database is only accessible to those who have access to your digiKam installation on your account, on your computer.

There might be some metadata that you might not want to share with others when you upload your files online, or email them to someone. The good thing about digiKam is that you can configure what metadata should be stored in the file and what should remain in the database. You can access these settings by going to `Settings > Menu > Configure digiKam`...

In the configuration dialog, click on "Metadata"

Under "Common Metadata Actions" select the metadata that you'd like embedded in the files.

One important thing to note is that any data not stored in the database will also not travel with the files. So if you take your files with you on a pen drive, you won't have access to the metadata from other computers where you open the file.

DATA BACKUP ON MOBILE PHONES

Managing the data on your mobile phone can be a considerable pain if you don't have the latest backup and the phone goes kaput. But with different platforms, the method of doing that varies.

Here are some methods that work cross-platform.

Backup with desktop software

Every smartphone manufacturer offers their version of the desktop data backup software. Nokia has the Ovi Suite, Blackberry offers the Desktop Software, Apple has iTunes and every manufacturer making Android phones has a version for them too.



Nokia Ovi suite

Without connecting the phone, you need to install the desktop application and plug the phone using the USB route. Allow the phone to be detected. Usually, you're asked to give the phone a name, so as to identify it later. Once done, make a backup of contacts, multimedia and messages.

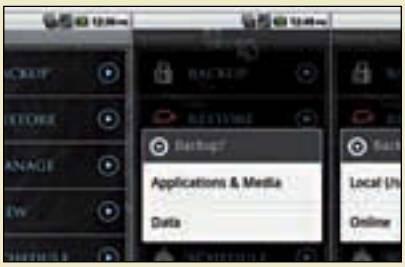
For iTunes, the process is a little different. There's no clear "backup" key. Once the device is connected to the PC, and shows up in the left bar in iTunes, right-click on the device name. Here, you'll see the Backup option.

Now let's take a look at each platform individually, and see what they offer over and above the desktop backup route.

Android

With Google's Android, you simply get the Google integration. Back up contacts to your Google account. Once you set up the Google account on the phone, allow it to sync completely once, before you turn off auto-sync, if at all.

Not only that, you can download a free app called SMS Backup+. Sign in to your Gmail account and backup SMSes. These messages will show under the newly created "SMS" label in your mailbox.



MyBackup Pro

An app that costs $5 (₹262) called MyBackup Pro lets you save almost everything, with the option of saving either to the SD card or the cloud storage. The only caveat is if you reset you phone, you'll need to reinstall this app before restoring data.



iCloud



iTunes backup

iOS

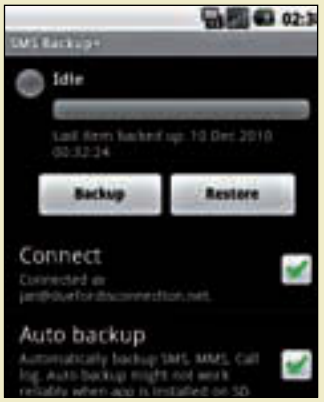
Apart from iTunes, iOS 5 brings in the iCloud feature that allows you to sync your data on the cloud. It will back up contacts, calendar, bookmarks, mails, reminders and even documents.

BlackBerry

Sometime back, RIM launched the BlackBerry Protect service. For anyone buying a BlackBerry phone now, this app will be preinstalled. For anyone who has an older BB device, head to the App World to download Protect app. Once downloaded, register with your email ID, select what all to sync, specify the update intervals and you're good to go. In case you're resetting the device, just sign in to Protect the next time and select "restore". Choose the backup you want to restore and allow it to make the changes.



Advanced Properties



SMS Backup+

Symbian

Not many options available here. Head off to the Ovi Store from within the phone. Download the Backup 2 Go app. This app will back up the data, and if you want it to restore on a USB drive, it will do that on a device – like the N8 –that has a USB port.

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GRAPHIC CARDS: HOW THEY WORK

Evolution of computing over the last decade has seen a distinct differentiation based on the nature of the workload. On the one hand you have the computing heavy tasks while on the other, there are graphics intensive tasks. Rewind back a decade, and you will remember almost every other motherboard having a dedicated display port as the graphics processor was onboard. Also some present day processors which sport integrated graphics also have IGP ports on the board. But with the graphical workloads getting more advanced and outputs more realistic, you would need to invest in a dedicated graphics processing unit to divide tasks between the CPU and the GPU. Another advantage of having a dedicated graphics processing unit is the fact that it lets your CPU be free to perform other tasks. For instance you can rip a movie in the background while playing a game.

EVER WONDERED WHAT GOES ON BEHIND THE SCENES WHEN YOU POWER UP YOUR GAME? READ ON...

We're used to seeing pixel crunching monsters that can spit out millions of polygons per second, and run even the most demanding 3D games at blistering frame rates. Yet very few of you know exactly how these marvels work. Today's graphic cards are marvels of engineering, with over 50 times the raw computational power of current CPUs, but they have far more specific and streamlined a task. There are two aspects to understanding how a graphics card works. The first is to understand how it works with the rest of the components in a personal computer to generate an image. The second part would be to understand the role of major components on a video card.

STAGES OF A GRAPHIC CARD WORKING IN A SYSTEM

At its most basic, a graphic card creates an image that you see on your screen from binary data that it receives from the CPU. This data is converted to an image in parts. First, wireframes are created out of straight lines, and elements like texture, lighting and colour are added. The largest part of this work is done by the GPU, or graphic processing unit, a unit that compliments the CPU that is responsible for pixel and texture crunching among other things. There are other components on the graphic card other than the GPU, video RAM is one such component, as well as a video-decoding chip enabling playback. A graphic card also has a lot of power circuitry and power controllers, for like any PC component, GPUs need precise power delivery.

Graphic cards communicate with the CPU via a bus system on the motherboard. The current bus is PCI Express. As the need for more powerful cards arose, the need for faster, more efficient communication pathways between CPU and GPU also became more urgent. Therefore the AGP bus gave way to PCI Express, and currently we're at PCIe v2.0 with the next generation PCIe v3.0 boards already in circulation.

We've already established that the GPU receives data in the binary form from the CPU. This data could be about a simple bitmap image with colour references to each pixel, or a complex 3D game, in which case there will be changing pixel information, texture information, geometry information, shader information, as well as lighting information.

In the past, CPU sent all data to the GPU which was only required to draw an output on the display and nothing more. But nowadays, apart from getting graphical data, the GPU also helps in certain computing tasks by working in tandem in a heterogeneous computing model with the CPU. For instance, offloading certain tasks from CPU which can be performed better & faster using parallel processing in the GPU (such as CUDA cores) the tasks range from transcoding to molecular dynamics and computational finance and many more. This is also known as GPU Computing or such a setup is known as a GPGPU computing..

So let's look at what happens when you hit that game.exe file sitting on your desktop.

The GPU itself performs quite a few tasks as we've listed. These tasks are completed in what is referred to as a graphics pipeline. This pipeline is what converts all this 3D data into an image viewable on a 2D screen – your monitor. Both NVIDIA and AMD have slightly different pipelines, but the processes and stages are roughly the same, with a few unique steps in the form of tweaks, optimisations and such. Graphically or more accurately in terms of 3D rendering, these stages are shown alongside.

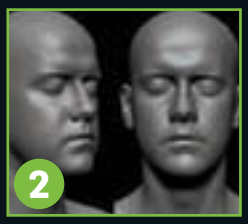
In case you are using an analogue display, the RAMDAC present on the graphic card converts this digital data to an analogue signal to be sent to the monitor via a D-Sub cable. In you are using a digital connectivity, such as an LCD monitor, there is no digital to analogue conversion required.

STAGES IN GPU WORKING



TRANSFORMATION

This stage involves computing on vertex data, which are points in 3D space and converting these numbers into polygons in a 2D space. Based on the coordinates, these objects are placed relative to each other in what is a 2D space, although the objects remain 3D.



LIGHTING

These polygons are lit correctly, as they will appear based on the positioning and number of light sources and reflective surfaces.



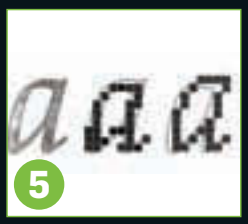
VIEWPOINT

The viewpoint or orientation of the user is taken into account, closer objects will be larger and vice versa and all objects in the scene are manipulated on the basis of the orientation.



CLIPPING

This involves pruning off the objects that will not be visible to the user. This saves the GPU precious computation power as calculations for objects not in the viewable scene need not be done.



RASTERIZATION

Objects are assigned to pixels, or in other words the scene is visualised as it would be on your monitor – a bunch of 2D pixels.



TRIANGLE SETUP

More complex shapes are made from joining the vertex points, and creating multi-sided wireframe models as are seen in 3D scenes.



CULLING

Non-viewable pixels are removed. This is actually the second stage of culling after clipping.



TEXTURE AND SHADING

This involves performing a makeup job on each pixel. A texture is a 2D image that is added to the surface of a 3D object giving it a realistic look, while a pixel shader involves defining properties like colour, texture and depth effects to a pixel to give it a special appearance that mimics reality.

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ASUS Eee Pad Transformer TF101G

A tablet and netbook hybrid



Ever thought of blending an iPad with a dedicated keyboard, like a netbook's? Sure, we all did. But the folks over at Asus did more than just that with the Eee Pad Transformer TF101G. With a 10.1-inch IPS touchscreen display, the ASUS Eee Pad Transformer has a docking station that's identical to any 10-inch ASUS Eee PC netbook's. The intelligent docking station allows the Eee Pad to transform into a 10-inch Android netbook, if you will, for tasks cumbersome to do with mere finger swipes.

Its look and feel is unique among tablets, sporting a hard plastic shell with a textured mesh finish that gives the tablet a premium finish. Where the tablet/screen fits into the keyboard dock, the sliding lock holds the two separate parts well, with slight jittering — it isn't rock solid, nonetheless it'll do.

The TF101G's screen is definitely one of the brightest we've seen on a 10-inch tablet, with great black levels and vivid colours. The dock sports chiclet-sized isolated keys that are good to type on, the dock has a wide touchpad.

ASUS has also tweaked the vanilla Android interface to help maximise the end-user experience —for example, the on-screen keyboard has five rows instead of four featured on plain vanilla Honeycomb; the extra row adds numbers which can be conveniently typed, saving you unnecessary finger clicks. The default water-level wallpaper across all homescreens is a battery indicator, rising and falling depending on battery. Also, the Back, Home, Recent Apps button on the bottom left of the home screen are visually different, more easier to launch than how they're depicted in vanilla Honeycomb builds. So whatever tiny tweaks Asus has made to the Eee Pad Transformer's interface only enhances the end-user experience.

The tablet's 5MP camera has a basic interface when it comes to clicking photos. Pictures clicked in bright sunlit or very well lit interiors are good with just a shade of noise. Captured video isn't the best in terms of quality but its average. The Transformer tablet's multimedia experience doesn't disappoint. In fact it's one of the best among tablets we've tested. The Asus Transformer's onboard speakers are loud and clear even at high volumes and handle both music and speech equally well. Whether it's watching YouTube videos or HD 720p flicks, the Eee Pad Transformer handled video playback very well. And its audio-video performance helped deliver a stellar entertainment experience.

The Asus Eee Pad Transformer TF101G is one of the best tablets in terms of overall battery life. At full-screen brightness and surfing the web over Wi-Fi gave about 8 hours of battery backup (with two fifteen hour breaks); I'm sure you can extract more juice by decreasing brightness and disabling Wi-Fi. But wait, this is just the battery life of the tablet; the keyboard dock comes with its very own battery which adds another 3 to 4 hours of extra battery usage off a single charge. What's more, when the tablet's attached to the dock, the battery from the dock drains out before eating into the tablet's charge -- very good thinking. Read the full review at http://bit.ly/tcR1iV.

Jayesh Shinde



Specifications

Screen: 10.1-inch glossy, 1280x800 resolution
CPU: Dual-core 1GHz ARM Cortex-A9 processor / RAM: 1 GB / Storage: 16 GB
GPU: ULP GeForce GPU, Tegra 2 T20 chipset
OS: Android 3.2.1 Honeycomb
Weight: 1.32 kg

Contact

Asus India Pvt. Ltd.
Email: komal_t@asus.com
Website: www.asus.in

7.5/10

Features	8.0
Performance	8.0
Build quality	7.0
Value for money	7.0

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Brag PC

Nothing much to brag about



Specifications

Processor: Intel Core i5 2500K; **Motherboard:** ASUS P8Z68 V-PRO; **RAM:** 4x2 GB DDR3 @ 1600 MHz; **Graphics Card:** ASUS GTX 560Ti; **PSU:** Corsair HX650; **Case:** NZXT Phantom case.

Contact

BRAG PC
Contact: Pankaj Rane
Email: sales@bragpc.com
Web site: www.bragpc.com
Price: ₹92,000

8.0/10

Features 8.0
Performance.....8.0
Build Quality 9.0
Value for money 6.0

BRAG PC, a product of primeabgb, aims to build custom PCs for the discerning gamers among us. The choice of components and especially the case, means that you get a cool system that should be able to handle extended gaming sessions with ease. The presence of a BD-ROM drive seems a bit excessive but you can at least be sure that you have a future-proof system. The components are very well laid out in the case, ensuring very good air flow. Cable-management has also been handled very well with a liberal use of cable ties. Idle temperatures remained in the low 30s and load temperatures very rarely crossed 50 and 60 degrees C on the CPU and GPU respectively.

Performance was as expected from the configuration, P4096 in 3D Mark 11, 19485 in PCMark Vantage, an average of 75 FPS in STALKER @1080p max settings, 4xAA with tessellation enabled.

At this price, it would have been much nicer to see 2 HDDs in RAID 0 or at least a Velociraptor thrown in. Which brings us to the issue of the price. Quite simply, if you were to buy each component individually yourself, you would save quite a bit of money, money that can very easily be invested in a 24-inch monitor and a gaming keyboard and mouse. The PC, while well-configured, lacks anything that you would want to actually brag about. At least a certain degree of factory overclocking, and, as mentioned earlier, RAID, would have mitigated the high price of the system to a certain extent. The PC will appeal to those buyers who don't want the hassle of building a system from scratch and just want a good, well-built system.

Anirudh Regidi

WD My Book Live 1TB

A good entry-level NAS



The WD My Book Live is a 1TB network-attached drive. It looks like any other My Book drive, if you don't consider the lack of USB ports. The LAN port and power point are the only connections. The top, rear and bottom portion of the My Book is well ventilated. Overall, it has quite a sturdy build quality.

Installing the WD My Book Live is child's play. If you want to access more advanced setup features, get yourself to the My Book Live web address, where you get the WD Dashboard.

Unlike normal HDDs, the main performance parameter to consider with network-attached storage (NAS) is not the speed of the drive, but the ease of setup as well as configuration of various devices to access WD My Book Live, accessing the drive remotely, etc. We tried transferring our 4GB Assorted file from our test system to the NAS drive which took around five minutes, whereas the same transfer to a USB 3.0 external drive took around 1 minute and 10 seconds.

As long as you're in the same room, the audio streaming is flawless. Using the WD 2go app, you can view pictures on your devices only after downloading them. The worst part – there's no thumbnail view. You'll need to use the WD Photos app to view photos on your smartphone as if you were viewing it locally.

WD My Book Live is a good entry-level NAS. We would have liked to see a USB port for more storage. The easy setup process is a big plus point and setting up and configuring your smartphone, tablet or computer system for remotely using the My Book Live is a breeze. However, at the price of Rs.7,999 for a 1TB drive it's pricey, considering the 3TB version is available at Rs.11,499. So unless the price of the 1TB drive comes down considerably, we find it hard to recommend over the 3TB version.

Nimish Sawant

Specifications

Capacity: 1 TB; **Interface:** LAN cable; **WiFi Support:** Yes; **Dimensions:** 167x139x50 mm

Contact

Western Digital
Email: anil.kukreja@wdc.com
Contact: 097699 55175
Web site: www.wdc.com
Price: ₹7,999

7.0/10

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

The HP Officejet 6500A

One of the best of its kind

The HP 6500A Plus is part of HPs Officejet e-All-in-Ones (eAIO) and 'ePrinting' series. This HP printer lets you print documents via e-mail. It comes with inbuilt apps that ranges from printing business documents to printing a tic tac toe game. It has a 250- sheet input tray capacity and a 35-page automatic document feeder (ADF). Another notable feature of this printer is the inclusion of automatic duplexer. The glossy black exterior gives the printer a very upmarket but clichéd look.



A 2.3-inch resistive touchscreen is built into the front panel of the printer. The overall build of the device is extremely sturdy and solid. The UI isn't smooth thanks to the resistive touchscreen, but the touch sensitive buttons make up for the loss by being very responsive. We did experience some lag at times, especially while trying to connect to our router.

Regarding its performance, it scored 7 out of 10 in our text print quality test and took 28.20 secs to print the text file at the highest resolution. In our mixed document print quality test, the printer managed to score a total of 6.7 out of 10 and took 41.24 secs to output the print of the file at highest resolution. The printer managed to output a good photo print, and copying speed and quality was decent as well. With good print quality and the plethora of features it offers, the HP 6500 A Plus is worth considering for those searching for an MFD.

Aniruddh Subramanian

Specifications

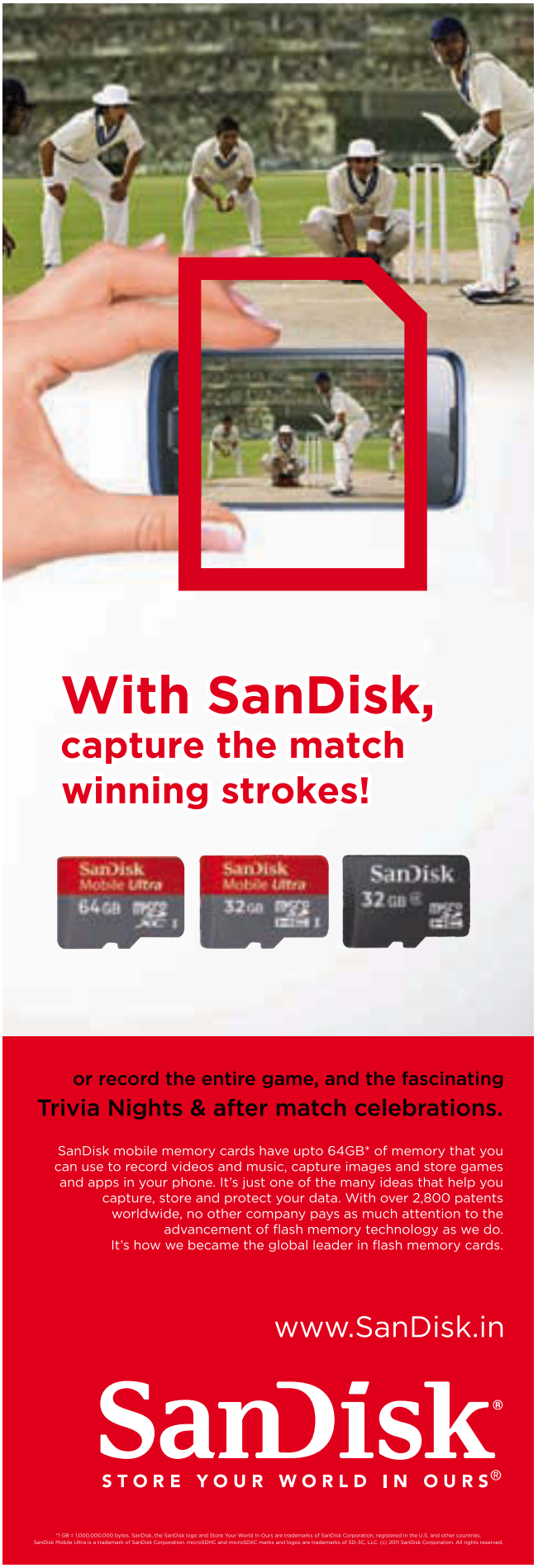
4 colour: CMYK
Dimensions: 18.75 x 17.72 x 10.17 in
Weight: 8.23 kg
Network: Ethernet, WiFi
Memory card reader

Contact

HP India
Phone: 1800 425 4999 / (City code) 3030 4499
Web site: bit.ly/tPCCUy
Price: ₹11,999

7.5/10

Features	8.5
Performance	7.5
Build Quality	7.0
Value for Money	7.0



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Acer Iconia Smart S300

A phone? A tablet? or a phone-let?



Specifications

SoC: Qualcomm MSM8255-1 Snapdragon
Processor: 1 GHz Scorpion;
Operating System: Android 2.3.3; **Camera (front / rear)**: 2 MP /8 MP
Screen size: 4.8 inches
Resolution: 1024x480
Battery capacity: 1500 mAh

Contact

Acer India Pvt Ltd
Phone: +91 80 3940 8700
Email: ailenquiries@acer.co.in
Web site: www.acer.co.in
Price: ₹28,990

7.0/10

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

The screen size of 4.8 inches is about 0.5 inches longer than the largest screen seen on smartphones. Acer defined the product as "A smartphone with tablet like capabilities". So we'll address the S300 as a smartphone.

It runs on the Android Gingerbread (v2.3) operating system. Acer has added its own customisations to the Gingerbread OS called the Acer UI 4.2. The 1024x480 pixel screen has a backlit LED with Gorilla glass on top. The colours appear vivid and the viewing angles are also great. The reflective glass surface can be annoying at times, but daylight visibility is quite good. The 21:9 cinema aspect ratio makes it ideal for watching movies. Contrast is not that great. Acer bundles a mini-HDMI to HDMI cable with which you can connect the smartphone to your HDTV.

We didn't face any issues with the call quality. The Iconia Smart houses a fine 8 MP camera. Image quality is good as long as you don't zoom in. Indoor shots are not that great without flash. You'll see minor artifacts if you don't use flash.

The Iconia Smart has a surprisingly low battery juice of just 1500mAh for a 4.8-inch screen device. It does last for a day with calling, surfing the net, listening to music and watching video content.

The Acer Iconia Smart S300 is a good device overall. But it does come with its kinks such as difficulty in one hand operation, apps not using the complete screen real estate, among other things. Acer needs to work on developing dedicated apps which will utilise the full 4.8-inch screen real estate. The S300 has a single core processor and its pricing is in the range of dual-core smartphones. But then that depends on your use case scenario, as not many apps use the dual core completely. If you're a heavy media consumption junkie, Acer Iconia Smart S300 is a decent bet.

Nimish Sawant

Lenovo IdeaPad K1 tablet

Impressive performance, rough persona



Specifications

ARM Cortex A9 dual core 1GHz processor; 1GB RAM; 32 GB storage; 10.1-inch display; 5 MP camera (2 MP for video calls); Android 3.1; Wi-Fi + 3G

Contact

Lenovo India
Phone: 08030533000
Email: lenconsumer@in.ibm.com
Web site: www.acer.co.in
Price: ₹28,990

6.0/10

Features 6.0
Performance.....7.5
Build Quality 5.0
Value 5.5

Everyone is jumping on to the tablet bandwagon – and Lenovo is no exception. The K1 appears to be competing with Motorola Xoom.

It has a unique physical button for Home, something we haven't seen on Android 3.0 and beyond devices. This doubles up as a touch sensitive button, and will work as a back button when you use that gesture. The K1 back has a pattern on the plastic to aid grip, but the plastic quality used feels cheap. The camera is placed badly, and is easily smudged when holding it in landscape mode – similar to the Acer Iconia Tab A501.

All ports and slots are on the side panels, and the quality of buttons feel cheap. Not something you expect when you spend well over ₹30k for a tablet.

We received the 32GB version, and what we love most is the memory slot to further expand storage space.

The tablet performed magnificently, delivering a smooth Android experience, with no slow-downs under app load. After a system update though, the tablet slowed to a crawl, but a couple of restarts later it was back to its blazing self.

The display is quite crisp and bright, and can get too bright if you don't activate the auto brightness setting. Viewing angles are decent, but not really as good as on the Galaxy Tab 750. The tablet heats up quite a bit after a mere 15 minutes of web browsing on Wi-Fi – terrible.

The battery life isn't the best, but we can't complain too much. We were concerned that the battery seems to fall pretty quickly even on standby, meaning you will find yourself charging it everyday unless you shut it down every night, or at least turn off Wi-Fi.

For a box price of ₹31,990 it's not the ultimate package. The Xoom is cheaper, and for just ₹1.5k more you can get the excellent Galaxy Tab 750.

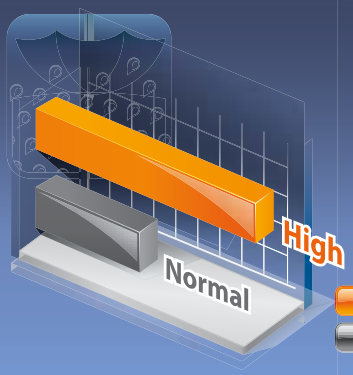
Vishal Mathur

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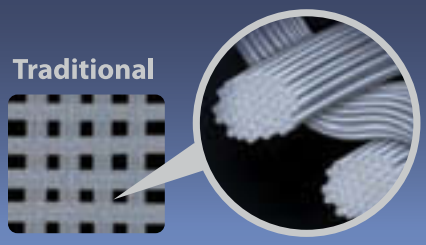
Humidity Protection



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Traditional Glass Fabric PCB









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• GA-H61M-S2P-B3



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Brother HL-2130

Worthy compact laser printer

The Brother HL-2130 laser printer is Brother's entry-level monochromatic laser printer. Being an entry-level model this printer doesn't pack a lot of features. One of its main highlights is the presence of a 250-sheet tray inspite of its compact size. The printer also sees a manual feed slot for odd paper sizes and for envelopes. Being an entry-level printer there is no inbuilt Wi-Fi or Ethernet port. There is also no memory card reader and neither a duplexer.

It has a cube shaped form factor. The grey tone of the printer gives it a corporate feel all over. The design is very minimalistic, we like it. On the top, you find 3 LED indicators one each for the toner and drum error and the last one for general errors. Removal of the paper load tray is very smooth and so is the removal of the toner and drum. Overall the build quality is decent, though, the build quality of the paper load tray is very rickety. Though we like the compact design, we wish the build quality was more robust and sturdy.



The printer printed our text test sheet in 12.12 secs at 1200 dpi. When set at 300 dpi, it managed to print five text test sheets in 22.33secs, that's quite fast. In our image plus text test, the printer threw out the print in 18.19 secs set at 1200 dpi. Overall the speeds at which the prints came out was very good.

The pricing is decent for someone looking at a fast monochrome printer, although we would like to see it dip further.

Aniruddh Subramanian

Specifications

Processor: 200 MHz ARM9
Memory: 8 MB
Resolution supported: 1,200/600/300 dpi
Toner [TN-2060]: 700 pages claimed
Drum [DR-2255]: 12,000 pages claimed

Contact

Brother International Pvt Ltd
Email: Rishikesh.Kane@brother.in
Contact: 022-40988900
Web site: www.brother.in
Price: ₹5,290

7.5/10

Features	7.0
Performance	8.0
Build Quality	7.5
Value for Money	8.0

Bulldozer AMD FX-8150

Doesn't quite bulldoze the competition

The AMD FX-8150 is based on the 32nm manufacturing process and has around two billion transistors. You'll need a Socket AM3+ motherboard for running the Bulldozer. It features the Turbo Core with some minor additions – for applications using say 3 of the 8 cores, Max Turbo will increase the clock speed on these 3 cores. Max Turbo Core can go upto 4.2GHz depending on the thermal headroom.



Performance-wise, we were not very impressed with Bulldozer. While it's certainly way better than the Llano chips, we can't say the same for the Phenom II X6 processors. The Intel Core i7-2600K still is faster than FX-8150, despite the latter having eight cores compared to the former's four cores.

In Cinebench R11.5, the FX-8150 gave 5.96 as opposed to 2600K's 6.86 and 2500K's 6.16. DivX encoding took roughly the same time as was taken on the older Phenom II X6 1075T – around 26 seconds; whereas the 2600K would finish the same task under 20 seconds.

We indulged in minor overclocking over the air and got the FX-8150 running at a steady 4.4GHz. Cinebench R11.5 kept crashing, but we got over 1,000-point jump in the Cinebench R10 readings. With voltage tweaking and liquid cooling you can easily cross 5 GHz.

At ₹15,500, we'd rather wait and see how the other FX series processors perform and how much of a boost the 8150 offers. For everyday desktop applications, eight cores are overkill. As for competition, FX-8150 lags behind Intel Core i7-2600K in all the tests and i5-2500K in some tests, and the pricing is over 2500K. As far as AMD goes, the FX-8150 is the best processor yet.

Nimish Sawant

Specifications

No. of cores: 8;
Clock Speed: 3.6 GHz;
Transistor count: 2 billion;
Manufacturing Process: 32nm;
L2 cache: 8 MB

Contact

AMD
Web site: www.amd.com
Price: ₹15,500

6.5/10

Features	7.0
Performance	6.5
Value for Money	6.0

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LIC/09-10/30 ENG

Motorola Motokey Social unveiled
Motokey Social is a budget Facebook phone more like the low-end Vodafone 555 Blue, than the HTC ChaCha or Salsa

Motorola Xoom 2 and ME
Motorola has introduced its 10.1-inch Xoom 2 and 8.2-inch Xoom 2 Media Edition tablets

CM Storm Sirus

Why so sirus?



Cooler Master Sirus is a new gaming headset from Cooler Master's "Storm" lineup of gaming accessories. The headset claims to sport true 5.1 surround sound, having 4 drivers on each side. Connectivity is via analogue 5.1 input (3.5mm jacks) or via USB and the bundled USB DAC. The headset is quite well-built and feels sturdy in the hand. Despite its weight, it fits quite nicely on the head and extended gaming sessions are not a problem. The cable is braided as well and the cans sport a backlit Cooler Master logo.

Music sounded quite flat, with even in-game music taking a beating. A true stereo headset is far better if it is music that you want. The headset did come into its own during the movie and gaming tests, which is what it's meant for. The audio was quite clear and when connected in 5.1, the ambiance was superb. Battlefield 3 was a delight, with even the slightest sound making us whirl around. Despite all this, the bass was still disappointing and weapon effects especially sounded ever so slightly flat. Even the background score seemed a bit muted. When connected via USB, the headset works without the need for extra drivers. The audio is an improvement over the output of the integrated sound card on a Z68 board, but not compared to a discrete card.

Cooler Master claims that the headset can hit 20KHz, but in our frequency sweeps we found that we could hear the 20KHz tone, but only because it was distorted. Disturbingly, as the volume is reduced, the drivers cut off one after the other, leaving only 1 pair in action towards the end. A tad expensive but a worthy purchase if you want a 5.1 surround sound experience without waking the neighbours!

Anirudh Regidi

Specifications

Form factor: Circumaural; **Driver:** F/R/C channel- 30mm driver; **Impedance:** 32 Ohms, 40mm sub, 16ohm impedance; **Frequency Range:** 10Hz-2KHz

Contact

Cooler Master
Email: sanket_naik@coolermaster.com
Web site: www.coolermaster.in
Price: ₹9,999

7.5/10

Features	8.0
Performance	7.0
Build Quality	8.0
Value for money	7.0

Dell Vostro 3750

An able desktop replacement



The Vostro 3750 comes as an update to the Vostro 3700, sporting the same look as the Dell Vostro 3350 we reviewed earlier. Its 17.3-inch form factor puts this business laptop in the desktop-replacement category in terms of its size and weight, rendering the device virtually non-portable and cumbersome to carry around. The aluminium outer-shell gives the Vostro 3750 a sturdy build and good looks, and a matte finish ensures that the device doesn't catch smudges or dust.

With a 1600 x 900 native resolution screen, the laptop gets a matte finish display, which means its great for reading text for extended period. Connectivity ports provided are sufficient for daily use, but we feel given its 17-inch form factor Dell could have been generous with the supply of ports. The 17.3-inch is excellent to look at, although its screen viewing angles aren't great.

The laptop's full-sized chiclet styled keyboard with a separate number-pad have well spaced keys and provide sufficient tactile feedback making it a very good keyboard to type on. The keyboard deck doesn't suffer from any flex but the numeric-keypad area does a bit, but nothing much. Its big trackpad guarantees easy navigation, its discrete mouse buttons are easy to click. The PC Mark Vantage score was 6978, while 3D Mark 06 score was 8351. From the scores you would have already realised that the device is a very good performer. Audio-video performance is nice as well.

The huge 17.3-inch screen, a good keyboard, a tough build quality and the excellent hardware list make the Dell Vostro 3750 an enticing business desktop replacement laptop to put your money on.

Aniruddh Subramanian

Specifications

Screen: 17.3 inch; **Resolution:** 1600x900; **CPU:** 2.0-GHz i7-2630QM; **RAM:** 6 GB DDR3; **HDD:** 750 GB; **GPU:** Onboard Intel HD Graphics 3000 & NVIDIA GeForce GT 525M; **OS:** Windows 7 Professional 64-bit

Contact

Dell India Pvt. Ltd.
Website: www.dell.co.in
Phone: 1800-425-4026
Price: ₹65,912

8.0/10

Features	8.5
Performance	8.5
Build Quality	7.5
Value for Money	7.5

ASUS TUF SABERTOOTH X79 Motherboard

BRINGING BETTER RELIABILITY TO X79

Precision thermal engineering and military-grade TUF components lead to a motherboard that can work harder and with total stability, even in the most arduous applications. TUF boards are reinforced with smart heat removal techniques and tougher materials, plus go through some of the most demanding tests in the industry. The result: reliable motherboards every business, commercial user, and PC builder looking for a long-lasting system should definitely get their hands on. Demonstrating the reliability of the new board, ASUS is offering a 5-year warranty on the TUF SABERTOOTH X79.



Welcome to the age of X79



When Intel released the specs for the new X79 chipset and LGA 2011 socket, ASUS got to work designing the new generation of TUF SABERTOOTH. Previous models such as the SABERTOOTH P67 were huge successes, but the SABERTOOTH X79 takes the thermal precision concept even further to max potential. It combines the high performance of the X79 architecture with even more refined heat mitigation and reliability.

Exclusive heat-beating technologies



The SABERTOOTH X79 comes with the latest iteration of the ASUS Thermal Armor, which shields vital motherboard sections from heat. It ensures better airflow with a channeling system that drives high temperatures away from the system quickly and efficiently, as special heat pipes drive heat away from the CPU and DRAM areas. Twin turbo fans push air quickly out of the case, which is made easier thanks to a custom I/O area that has extra ventilation built-in. Overall the system runs 11%* cooler as a result. Additionally, the SABERTOOTH X79 includes the ASUS Thermal Radar layout, consisting of 12 embedded sensors in various areas of the motherboard. These offer real time temperature readings that keep a close eye on heat levels, and modify fan speeds automatically for optimized cooling. You can also use these readings to change CPU and Thermal Armor fan speeds manually, as detailed information allows you to modify cooling to suit different circumstances while maintaining efficient and quiet computing.

These make the SABERTOOTH X79 the home platform for better X79 reliability, and with the addition of military-grade components it's simply unbeatable in the stability stakes.

Better power for longer lifespan

True military-grade components include capacitors, MOSFETs, and chokes. All are of the highest quality and guaranteed to last longer than mainstream components. They can handle higher temperatures while maintaining the stability you need for critical applications. The SABERTOOTH X79 has been developed as a board you can trust round the clock, and since heat is the primary cause of hardware failure, better thermal protection immediately translates into better reliability. It ships with the exclusive ASUS New DIGI+ Power Control design, which entails three digital voltage regulators that supervise power conversion for both the CPU and DRAM. All-digital power delivery and a user friendly interface give you the ability to modify voltages in fine increments for enhanced performance tuning. However, the key advantage of this design is better efficiency thanks to reduced power loss.

Real peace of mind

Demonstrating the TUF Series' dedication to reliability, ASUS is offering buyers of the SABERTOOTH X79 a whopping five years of warranty service, available globally wherever ASUS products are sold. Five years is quite a long time in PC terms, and means the SABERTOOTH X79 and TUF Series products overall make for a very sound investment in the long run for anyone looking to build a PC that can really take the heat.



▲Thermal Radar comes with smart and friendly UI for real-time thermal control.

*Testing configuration: SABERTOOTH X79/Intel Core i7-3960X/Kingston DDR3 1600 2G*4/ Windows 7 64-bit/ EAH5970*2

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Read an in-depth review of the Samsung Omnia W at **http://bit.ly/OmniaW**

HTC Radar web review
Read an in-depth review of the HTC Radar at **http://bit.ly/RadarC110e**

Samsung Omnia W I8350

Cocktail of brilliance



Frankly, the iOS vs. Android battle was beginning to become a bit boring. Thankfully, Microsoft has arrived, with WP 7.5 Mango.

The Omnia W looks like a compact smartphone - sleek and light. On the front is the hardware button for Home, with the Windows logo on it. There are two touch sensitive keys – return and Bing search.

A 1.4GHz processor and 512MB of RAM power the Omnia W. The phone comes with 8GB internal storage but no slot for memory expansion. The 5MP camera can take 720p HD videos. Within the applications, we like the sideways scrolling method, to get access to deeper divisions of the content. For example, in mails, you can scroll sideways to switch between All Mails, Unread and Urgent.

The 3.7-inch Super AMOLED display is a delight to use. Text is crisp, and the brightness levels are extremely good as well. Indoors, you won't feel the need to move higher than the Low setting.

The call quality is surprisingly good. Even in the lift for my apartment, where the bars are down to 1 or 2, the call didn't drop. Earpiece volume is quite loud, yet remains clear for the most part.

The battery lasted 2 days, with a few calls and messages and was connected to either the Wi-Fi or EDGE throughout for Facebook and mails.

For a price of just under ₹20,000, the Omnia W is a cocktail of brilliance. Must buy!

Vishal Mathur

Specifications

Processor: 1.4GHz dual core; **Storage:** 512 MB RAM, 8GB storage; **Display:** 3.7-inch with 480x800 resolution; **Camera:** 5 MP, 720HD videos; **Battery:** 1500 mAh

Contact

Samsung India
Email: jayakumar.v@samsung.com
Web site: www.samsung.com
Price: ₹19,990

7.5/10

Features	8.0
Performance	8.0
Build	7.0
Value for money	7.5

HTC Radar C110e

An elegant Windows Mango phone



HTC Radar sports the Windows Phone 7.5 popularly known as the Mango update, that has got rid of minor niggles that affected the WP7. It features the unibody aluminium design with the plastic portion around the base opening up to insert your SIM card. There is no way to access the battery.

The HTC Radar is a 3.8-inch capacitive touchscreen phone having an S-LCD screen with the gorilla glass on top. It comes with an internal storage of 8 GB without any option to add external memory, which effectively means that you have only 6.54 GB at your disposal. Sad. Multitasking allows you to play music in the background while you are on another app. But if you toggle through multiple apps, they seem to resume from where they had stopped. Social integration includes Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn and you can sync your Yahoo, Gmail and Windows Live account.

Call quality was brilliant and we did not experience any dropped calls. Camera quality is quite good. Colours appear natural and crisp in outdoor shooting.

Pages load quickly on IE9 and the text rendered is quite sharp even when it is completely zoomed into. The battery of the HTC Radar lasted for a good day and a half with regular usage including surfing the web over, calling, messaging and listening to music. The battery will last about a day with video consumption.

HTC Radar has elegant aesthetics, sturdy build, a responsive user interface and great camera response. WP7.5 has an evidently improved user experience.

At an MRP of ₹23,990 it has tough competition from Samsung Omnia W which has a powerful processor and the Super AMOLED screen and a lower price.

Nimish Sawant

Specifications

SoC: Qualcomm MSM8255; **Screen size:** 3.8-inch; **Resolution:** 480x800; **Camera (Front / rear):** 5MP / VGA; **RAM:** 512 MB; **Internal Storage:** 8 GB

Contact

HTC India Pvt Ltd
Email: NA
Website: www.htc.in
Phone: 1800-425-4026
Price: ₹23,990

7.0/10

Features	7.5
Performance	7.0
Build Quality	8.0
Value for Money	6.0

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Bangalore Mr. Ravi Shankar & Satish - 09342166111 & 09844188925



The Ultimate Fight for Supremacy

The Zero1 Awards signify the pinnacle of achievement for products across categories...for this year only, of course!

Every year, the Digit Test Centre puts several hundreds of products through rigorous tests, and meticulously ranks and rates them in order of merit, with a single-minded goal – to tell India what products they should buy, and of course, how to get the best bang for their buck... that's what we Indians are obsessed with, aren't we? And why shouldn't we?

The Zero1 Awards is our yearly round-up of the best products of the entire year, felicitated for standing the test of time (and a year in Technology is a really long time) to emerge victorious. The Zero1 Award is different from all our other awards that we hand out on a monthly basis in our comparison tests, because it's a shoot-out of all the Best Performers of the year, and the most recently launched products. So, for example, we pit the Best Performer of all graphics cards against any contenders that have been newly launched since our comparison, to arrive at what is the best GPU that money can buy.

Although Performance really is King in this Award's category, we also list out some of the recommended buys for different usage scenarios, or budgets, to ensure that with this one issue of Digit, you're armed with enough knowledge to be able to buy the best product you possibly can for your requirements.

After a rather hectic month of testing, the Digit Test Centre is proud to announce the winners of the Zero1 Awards 2011 in the pages that follow.

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INTERNAL HDDs:
WESTERN DIGITAL VELOCIRAPTOR 600GB
Price: ₹17,599

Internal HDDs

Hard drives went up in capacity this year. All three major manufacturers viz. Western Digital, Hitachi and Seagate now have their 3TB versions. With the WD drive, you needed a host bus adapter (which came bundled) to use the full 3TB capacity. Also a term that was heard quite often was advanced 4K format, which basically combines eight 512-byte sectors to prevent the 2.19TB barrier limit that was present in previous generation hard drives. Seagate had a 3TB drive using the 512-byte sector to make it compatible with older systems running Windows XP.

Zero1 Winner

Western Digital Velociraptor 600GB

When it came to pure performance, the WD Velociraptor 600 GB drive which came with a SATA 6 Gbps interface and having 32 MB of cache won hands down, thanks to the massive 10,000 RPM spindle speed. With read speeds crossing 150 MB/s and write speeds around 148 MB/s, the Velociraptor had little competition and is the drive to go for if you want blazing speeds, but don't have the budget to invest in an SSD.

Worthy Mentions

Seagate Barracuda XT 3TB

This is one drive that did manage to come close to the performance of the WD Velociraptor. The humoungous capacity ensures that the cost per GB remains low. Also unlike the WD 3TB drive, the Barracuda XT doesn't need a host bus adapter to utilise the complete 3TB capacity of the drive.



Seagate Barracuda XT 3TB
Price: ₹14,500



Corsair Force 3 GT 120GB
Price: ₹9,999

SSDs

Just like their mechanical counterparts, the solid state drives also started to see an increase in overall capacity. With increased capacity and prices coming down, the SSD market is really hot now. From just two companies making the controllers a couple of years back –Intel and Indilinx, to many more now – Jmicron, Toshiba, Marvell, SandForce and Samsung, among others. The Performance of SSDs with the same controller have limited variation and we got to see a difference only when the controllers were different.

Zero1 Winner

Kingston HyperX 240GB SSD

"Blazing fast" are the only words that come to mind when you talk about this beautifully designed high capacity SSD. Performance-wise, it was superior to any other SSD we tested this year. Kingston has moved from the Toshiba controllers (seen in Kingston SSDNow V+100) to SandForce SF2281 controller. The performance upgrade is tremendous with real life Read/Write scores at 263 / 203 MB/s. But this drive comes at a massive cost per GB of ₹125.23.

Worthy Mentions

Corsair Force 3 GT 120GB

Corsair Force 3 GT 120 GB drive sports the SandForce SF2281 controller. Performance is top notch, thanks to the same controller as is being used in the Zero1 Winner. Best part is that it comes at a very promising price point.



SSDs: KINGSTON HYPERX 240GB SSD
Price: ₹27,999

External HDDs

One theme that remained constant across all the brands was adoption of the Superspeed USB 3.0 standard. The second important thing that stood out was the attention paid to the aesthetics. Be it the super slim Seagate GoFlex Slim 320GB drive or the race-car like design on the Silicon Power Stream S10, the drives commanded attention. Portable drives went to capacities of 1.5 TB whereas the powered drives scaled the 3 TB mountain.

If you're looking for an external drive, and are planning to upgrade your system in the near future, please go for a USB 3.0 based drive as it will not only give you great speeds when you upgrade to a USB 3.0 board, but it is also backwards compatible with USB 2.0 ports. Moreover, the difference in the cost per GB of USB 3.0 drives when compared with their USB 2.0 counterparts isn't much.

Zero1 Winner

ADATA Nobility NH03

The Zero1 winner this year was bagged by ADATA Nobility NH03 for its superior performance among all the external drives. It touched speeds as high as 120 MB/s in real-life read tests. It comes in a beautiful black shell and has a one-touch backup button.

Worthy Mention

Hitachi Touro Mobile Pro 500GB

Among the portable drives, the fastest drive that we tested this year was the Hitachi Touro Mobile Pro 500GB drive. It houses a 7200RPM drive within it and this combined with the USB 3.0 interface makes the drive race ahead of competing portable drives. It comfortably crossed the 100 MB/s in read tests. It also was the only drive with a cloud storage option.



EXTERNAL HDDs:
ADATA NOBILITY NH03
Price: ₹9,635



Hitachi Touro Mobile Pro 500GB
Price: ₹8,000



Kingston Data Traveller 64 GB
Price: ₹7,599

FLASH DRIVES:
APACER AH552
Price: ₹5,345



Flash drives

USB 3.0 and higher capacities have made an entry in the pen drive segment as well. Four GB pen drives are laughable now when you have 64 GB pen drives available in the market. While we did get a lot of USB 2.0 drives, they are certainly no competition when it comes to performance. Also well designed, rugged drives were in vogue.

Zero1 Winner

Apacer AH552

This is a 32GB drive which comes in a very small form factor and with a USB 3.0 port. A similarly specced Kingston Data Traveller is much bulkier in comparison. But this drive delivered the goods when it came to performance. Scaling a staggering 115 MB/s for sequential read and 71 MB/s for sequential write. Its closest competitor was a good 25 MB/s slower in both, reads and writes. That speaks volumes of what this drive can deliver.

Worthy Mention

Kingston Data Traveller 64 GB

This one's meant for the storage junkies, who want to transfer lots of data,fast. The capacity is enough to use this as a tertiary storage drive for certain files. Performance-wise it was the second best. Also thanks to the huge capacity, the cost per GB is lower than that of the Zero1 Winner.

READ DETAILED REVIEWS OF TOP RATED STORAGE AT
http://bit.ly/thinkdigit_storage





Thermaltake Level 10 GT
Price: ₹19,900

Cabinets

For the first time, we had a cabinet comparison test this year thanks to the sheer variety now in the market. Although we had a budget cabinet comparison test, we also tested some high-end ones throughout the year. One noticeable thing in this category this year was the introduction of the USB 3.0 port along with the USB 2.0 port on the front panel. Many high-end cabinets had dedicated SATA ports and power cables on their top bay's to hot swap an internal drive or external drives such as the ones from the Seagate GoFlex stable.

Zero1 Winner

Thermaltake Level 10 GT

A first glance at this cabinet would evoke extreme reactions from gasps to awe thanks to its unique modular design. The Level 10 GT is neatly compartmentalised into four sections on the left-hand side with a hook along the top right-hand side which extends across the depth of the cabinet. This full-tower cabinet is overkill for most gamers, but for enthusiasts who have a multi-GPU setup and money to burn, this chassis is another feather in their rig's cap.

The power / reset button along with four USB 2.0 ports are located on the projection on the edge. It even has a projection on one side to hang your headphones on. The top portion of the cabinet has the USB 3.0 ports along with an eSATA port. You can control the fan speeds and fan LED colour with dedicated buttons.



Cooler Master HAF X
Price: ₹12,600



Circle Black Hawk
Price: ₹6,900

The cabinet comes with a secure lock mechanism which is a huge plus point. The secure lock is also provided for the HDD bays, thus providing another level of protection.

On the inside of the side panel, the 200mm fan is covered by five horizontal flaps which can direct air flow with the help of the controller located on the outer side. There are red, blue and green lights which can be toggled with the help of the LED light control button.

Inside the cabinet there's enough space to manoeuvre around even after adding in a standard ATX board. HDD bays though toolless, need the HDD to be screwed on to the trays. The SATA power connector tower behind the HDD bay for each tray makes wire management quite easy.

Worthy Mentions

Cooler Master HAF X

Cooler Master HAF X looks like an elder brother of the HAF 922 and has plenty of room inside the cabinet to even fit in a XL-ATX form factor motherboard. Strong build quality and good aesthetics are the hallmark of this cabinet. It even comes with four wheels which help in easy movement of the cabinet. Dust filters are located on the front, top and bottom sections which are easily removable. The hot swap trays have dedicated power and SATA connector ports, but there are no dedicated power and SATA ports behind the 3.5-inch SATA trays as was seen in the Level 10 GT. All in all, a good cabinet with interesting features and the pricing won't burn a hole in your pocket for the features you're getting.

Circle Black Hawk

The Black Hawk is a proper gaming cabinet at an extremely affordable price for its features and performance. It has two USB 3.0 ports and an eSATA port up-front. Fan control buttons and the grilled front portion allow for easy airflow. Inside the cabinet you're greeted with a very modular design with a tray separating the motherboard section from the power supply section. Green shockproof rings within the toolless HDD bays are an interesting addition. For its great overall features, performance and pricing it had won our Editor's Pick this year.

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Monitors

Monitors didn't see any path-breaking innovations as such, but there was more variety in terms of panels. While last year, majority of the monitors were of the TN panels, this year we got a few monitors with VA and IPS panels. Also, LED backlit LCD monitors came in really slim sizes with AOC and LG leading from the front in that segment.

Zero1 Winner

BenQ XL2410T

BenQ XL2410T is one monitor that encompasses all the good points from all the major monitors out there. This 23.6-inch monitor is an LED backlit LCD monitor with a refresh rate of 120Hz which makes it ideal for watching 3D content and playing 3D games using NVIDIA 3D Vision. It comes with tilt and swivel mechanism, height adjustment and the ability to use it in the portrait mode, among other things. The matte finish on the screen doesn't reflect the background. Ergonomically, it's one of the best monitors we came across. It comes with a DVI, VGA and HDMI port. The TN panel is the one hitch which limits its viewable angles. It also suffers from minor backlight bleeding.



ViewSonic VA 2431wm

Price: ₹10,500



AOC e2043Fsk

Price: ₹6,200

BenQ XL2410T

Price: ₹31,200

It allows you to set up monitor profiles for upto two games and there's a special FPS mode. This monitor was put through the paces by a focus group of gamers; infact, the package has the photos of SpawN and HeatoN – *CounterStrike* world champs.

As for 3D experience, the still images really do pop out. The 2D gaming response is lovely and we didn't face any lag issues. As for 3D gaming, we were able to play 3D games and the experience really depends on how good (or bad) the state of 3D technology is. As we've been saying often, it's still an evolving technology. So yeah, in games with minimal details such as scenes inside closed rooms, etc, we could see a brilliant 3D effect. On playing the initial stages of *Crysis Warhead* though which is set in a forest with dense foliage, the sense of depth is not that great.

This monitor is targeted at the hardcore gamer and it does deliver the goods apart from being ergonomically up there.

Worthy Mentions

ViewSonic VA 2431wm

If you're not a gamer, but still want to get yourself a 24-inch monitor, then ViewSonic VA2431wm is the one for you. It comes in a simple glossy bezel and has a native resolution of 1080p. It has 2x2W integrated speakers. The monitor has a solid build and doesn't tend to wobble. It gave a really good contrast ratio of over 640:1 in our Spyder3Elite tests. Viewing angles were comparitively better despite this being a TN panel monitor. The value for money proposition is quite high, thus it also ended up winning out Best Buy award in our earlier comparison test.

AOC e2043Fsk

One of the slim monitors that we tested this year, it's an ideal bet for those on a strict budget but still want a good LED backlit LCD monitor. It's just 12.9 mm thick and the display ports are connected on the rear side of the base stand. It can also be wall mounted using the base stand. It gave the best contrast ratio among all the competing 20-inch monitors and has good viewing angles. Gaming and watching movies on this monitor was quite a good experience. But note that it can only go upto 1600x1200 resolution. The matte finish on the screen is another point in its favour.

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AMD Processors

AMD coined a new term in the processor segment called the Accelerated Processing Unit (APU) which is a fancy term for processors with integrated graphics and lay heavy stress on power efficiency. Under this Fusion APU series, AMD first launched an Intel Atom competitor by the code name Zacate, which is a low power processor ideal for HTPC setups. This series was followed by a mid-range processor lineup codenamed Llano. The flagship Llano APU (A8-3850) has a dedicated graphics HD 6550D chipset which house 400 stream processors - quite impressive for mid-range gaming.

Zero1 Winner

AMD FX-8150

AMD launched its flagship model, an 8-core processor a couple of months ago. Targetted at the higher-end enthusiast community the FX series of processors don't support integrated graphics. Each Bulldozer module comprises two integer cores, and four such Bulldozer modules make the processor. Performance-wise, it was only slightly better than the Intel Core i5-2500K and slower than the Core i7-2600K. As far as AMD processors are concerned, this is the best processor yet.

Worthy Mention

AMD A8-3850

If you want a decent processor that will allow you to game at 1680x1050, without a discrete graphics card, then A8-3850 is the processor to go to. As far as gaming goes, the HD 6550D in the A8-3850 gives better frame rates when compared to Intel's HD 2000 / HD 3000. It can be CrossFired with three AMD graphics cards such as HD6670, HD 6570 and HD 6450, this boosts the frame rates further.



AMD CPU:
AMD FX-8150
Price: ₹15,500



AMD A8-3850
Price: ₹7,425



ASRock A75 Extreme6
Price: ₹ 7,500



MOTHERBOARD:
ASUS CROSSHAIR V FORMULA
Price: ₹15,900

Motherboards

We saw two chipsets this year, namely the 890FX and 990FX. The 990FX was introduced in the second half of this year with the main differences being compatibility with AM3+ based CPUs (read: Bulldozer FX series processors) and NVIDIA SLI support for AMD processors. The SLI support is a big selling point of this chipset as you'll not be locked onto the AMD eco-system if you get an AMD processor. The other chipset for the Llano processors was the A75 chipset.

Zero1 Winner

ASUS ROG Crosshair V Formula

The Republic of Gamers series is packed to the gills with features. ASUS Crosshair V Formula continues that legacy. The build quality is rock-solid with sturdy heat sinks. ASUS's implementation of the UEFI BIOS is the best we've come across and makes tweaking the BIOS very easy. The ROG overclocking features coupled with the AI Suite's prowess, allows you to monitor and tweak your system settings from the OS enviornment. The dedicated overclocking button beside the power and reset button is an interesting addition allowing you to overclock without entering the BIOS. The only hitch which we can think of is the absence of a POST error code LED, an extra LAN port which would have also been nice considering it's the flagship board from ASUS.

Worthy Mention

ASRock A75 Extreme6

As far as the Llano boards go, we found this board to be the best in terms of overall feature set. It has around eight SATA 6Gbps ports, POST debug LED and start/reset buttons, among other things. This, bundled with the well laid out UEFI BIOS adds to the goodies. Performance wise it is slightly better than competitors but its feature set far outnumbers everyone.



PROCESSOR:
INTEL CORE i7–2600K
Price: ₹17,500

Intel Processors

Intel introduced the Sandy Bridge line up of processors early in the year. It came with innovative features such as Quick Sync video, integrated graphics on the same 32-nm die as the processor and advanced vector extensions capable of handling 256-bit floating point executions, among other things.

Zero1 Winner

Intel Core i7-2600K

Throughout the year, this processor ruled the roost, so much so that even the 8-core Bulldozer from AMD couldn't shake it off the top. It performed very well in all the benchmarks. We were particularly impressed with the hardware acceleration due to the Quick Sync technology. Overclocking the processor is also quite easy.

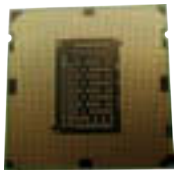
Worthy Mention

Intel Core i5-2500K

This is the only other Sandy Bridge processor we got from Intel in the entire year. Clocked at just 100 MHz lower than the 2600K, the 2500K is a great processor as its performance difference from 2600K is only around 10-15 per cent.

Intel Core i7-3960X

The Sandy Bridge E series processor arrived in our labs very late. It's being claimed worldwide as the fastest processor on the planet right now. Had it come to us earlier we would have run it through its paces and it might have even won the award. It replaces the older generation Core i7-980X. It doesn't have integrated graphics, does not or Intel SRT, it can support upto four dual-channel memory slots.



Intel Core i5-2500K
Price: ₹11,700



ASRock Z68 Extreme7 Gen3
Price: ₹18,999

Motherboards

At the start of the year there were two chipsets: H67 – which didn't allow overclocking but allowed you to use integrated graphics and P67 – which allowed overclocking but you had to let go of integrated graphics. The answer to the dilemma was solved by the Z68 chipset. Not only did it allow you to use the integrated graphics (provided boards had display ports) as well as overclock the board. Through a new feature called Intel Smart Response Technology you can set an SSD in RAID with your hard drive, additionally you can use your SSD as a cache memory for your hard drive, improving application loading times of the most frequently used apps.

Zero1 Winner

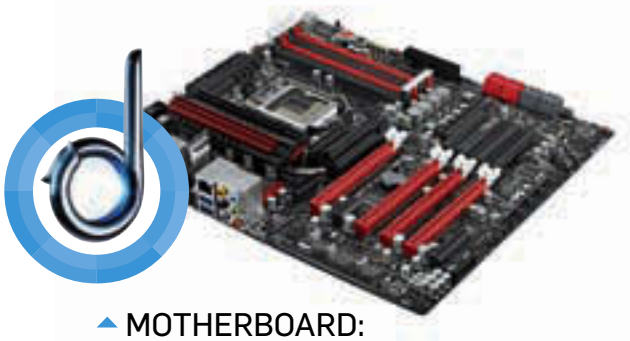
ASUS ROG Maximus IV Extreme Z

Belonging to the Republic of Gamers series, this board has top-notch build quality, eight connectors on board to ensure sufficient cooling, etc. It houses an NVIDIA NF200 chip which controls the second and fourth PCIe x16 slot allowing you to run two graphics cards in SLI at x16/x16 speeds. It helps in 3-way SLI as well. Onboard ROG features are quite exhaustive and give you many options to overclock and tweak the system via relevant utilities. It also has the best UEFI BIOS implementation among competing brands.

Worthy Mention

ASRock Z68 Extreme7 Gen3

It looks quite impressive with angular designs on the heat sinks, there are as many as 10 SATA ports on the board. It comes with a UEFI BIOS as well as the NVIDIA NF200 chip for 3-way SLI. Pricing is quite decent for the kind of features on offer.



MOTHERBOARD:
ASUS MAXIMUS IV EXTREME Z
Price: ₹26,220

Headphones

Owning a set of cans is like getting a passport to the Kingdom of Audiophilia. But you can't just sport any old pair of headphones to be considered an initiated member of this clan. To gain the privilege of being a "serious" audiophile you need to know and own the right gear. And in this, an audiophile is always spoilt for choice. This year saw some pretty decent releases and some of the best managed to end up falling into our eager hands.

Zero1 Winner

Sennheiser HD 800

The HD 800 is Sennheiser's latest flagship headphone replacing the good old HD 650. The HD 800 is a ticket to a stratospheric stereo experience – fairly neutral, with maybe a smidgeon more emphasis on the highs than the lows. Plus it will woo you with tonal accuracy and soundstage rather than cheap (read: boomy) thrills. The HD 800 is a performance monster and rightfully walks away with our Zero1 Award this year.

Full review: http://bit.ly/senhd800

Worthy mention

TDK WR700

Unlike most wireless headphones that downgrade the audio quality for easy transmission, the WR700 is lossless. This is achieved via a transmission technology called Kleer that uses the 2.4 GHz band for RF transmission of totally uncompressed audio. For wireless headphones, the performance is superlative. For someone looking for a wireless solution without compromising on sound quality, it makes for a perfect purchase.

Full review: http://bit.ly/wr700tdk



HEADPHONES: SENNHEISER HD 800

Price: ₹79,990



HEADPHONES – IN EARS: BRAINWAVZ M3

Price: ₹4,200



MEElectronics M6

Price: ₹1,400 (approx)



TDK WR700

Price: ₹6,900



Philips SHE 9750

Price: ₹1,999

IEMs

It wouldn't be too much of a stretch to call In Ear Monitors (IEMs) the poor audiophile's gateway drug. For the price, in-ears offer great audio quality, excellent portability without having to sell your kidney for partaking in some aural indulgence. As a result, IEMs as a category has seen a fair amount of consumer interest, especially this year thanks to smartphones and our ever price sensitive market. If you can deal with the snug fit and the idea of having transducers (albeit tiny ones) just inches away from your brain, the isolation offered by some models in this category is unmatched.

Zero1 Winner

Brainwavz M3

Until recently these in-ears were the flagship headphones from Brainwavz. In terms of performance, we place the headphones at the top of the pile, suitable for almost any kind of music. The bass is fairly tight and impactful and the quantity is not too overwhelming. The sound signature is not bright and if were to put a label on it, we'd say it tends to sway to the warm side (mids accentuated) ever so slightly. One of the better sounding in-ears to enter our test centre and hence deservedly the winner of our Zero1 Award.

Worthy mentions

Philips SHE 9750

For an odd-looking pair of headphones, the sound quality of the SHE 9750 is surprisingly good. Thanks to the gel-filled housing, the fit and isolation offered by the SHE 9750 is exceptional. At the same time unlike the closed sound of ear canal plugs these sound quite open. The bundled utilitarian hard case with built-in cable management is a bonus.

MEElectronics M6

The M6 is one of the most neutral sounding IEMs our weary ears had the pleasure of trying. The amount of bass is not distracting while the range is reproduced true to source. At a price of around ₹1,400 the M6 makes for a great purchase.

Ebook Readers

Quite early in the year, in our February issue, we pitted several ebook readers against each other. Our verdict was clear. Amazon's Kindle 3 was the winner on all fronts. The factors that went against the Kindle 3 was the overall cost considering Amazon's international shipping charges. Over the months, several factors began stacking up in favour of the Kindle. A couple of companies discontinued their ebook reader businesses. Amazon, on the other hand, continued business as usual waiving off shipping charges. It also added 5 GB of cloud storage space free with your Kindle account.

The Indian market for products is unique in many ways. It is large and growing, and among the fastest in the world. Yet, in several categories, ebook readers in particular, many exciting options aren't available. Thankfully, Amazon ships to India. Speaking of Indian products there's the Infibeam Pi (and recently Pi2) that provide excellent value for money. Products such as the Leaf ebook reader and Wink reader don't exist any more. Hence, Kindle 3 is our winner, followed by the Infibeam Pi2 and the Pi.

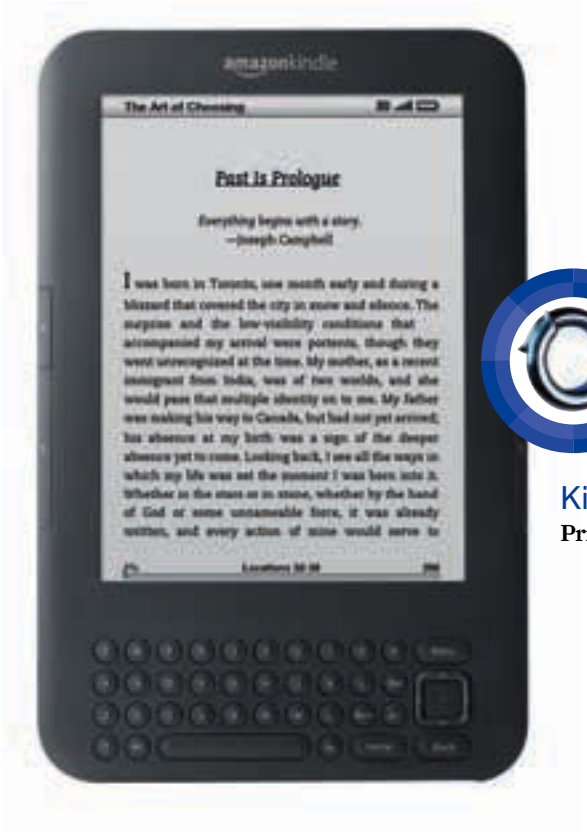
It's easy to get lost in the several products we've heard of. Yes, the Kindle has an edge, but it stands true to its merit as well. The basis for owning an ebook reader is simple. You like reading. But then, any device with a display should serve the purpose. There would be nothing special in a technology called e-ink display. This, also happens to be the USP of this product category. LCD displays have a reflective surface and with the need of a backlight, simply can't be read in daylight. You'd be better off with a laptop or a netbook then. That's a strict no! So the device should be as close to paper as possible. Of course, we can't get the touch, feel and smell of paper so we'll do without that for now.

The weight of the device is important as well. As hard as you'd find to believe us, a 500-gram device feels like a ton when you're reading a novel. Considering that it's an electronic device, it needs batteries, and with that recharges. The longer each charge powers the device, the better. That eventually determines how long a trip you'll have company in your hands.

Zero1 Winner

Kindle 3

The Kindle 3 that we tested is now known as the Kindle Keyboard with 3G. There are five Kindle devices currently available in the Amazon Kindle store. These include the Kindle Touch, Kindle Touch 3G and a budget version at $79 (₹4,127). However, considering that there's a touch-enabled device in the offing too, we recommend against it, for now.



Kindle 3
Price: ₹7,367 ($139)



Infibeam Pi2
Price: ₹9,999



Infibeam Pi
Price: ₹9,999

Worthy Mentions

Infibeam Pi2

The Infibeam Pi2 is an option you may consider, especially if you prefer reading vernacular languages over English. You should know that our test centre found the response sluggish. The Infibeam Pi2 seems over-priced, especially when compared to the Kindle. Nevertheless, the fact that Infibeam has a base in India, may go in favour of it. As mentioned earlier, we don't recommend touch-based devices for reading due to the glare they introduce.

Infibeam Pi

The Infibeam Pi was our Editor's Pick during the tests. Considering that the Infibeam Pi2 with Touch, extra storage space and a better build quality sells at ₹9,999, it's a reason to wonder why Infibeam hasn't reduced the prices for the Pi. If you want a no-nonsense ebook reader, this might be the one for you. But then again, it seems too pricey!



Graphics Cards

After processors, it's graphics cards are the next really exciting category. As there are only two major GPU chip designers – NVIDIA and AMD – it's a closely watched battle each year. While last year AMD scored over the NVIDIA cards as far as both single and dual GPU cards went, this year the tables were turned in NVIDIA's favour. In fact both GPU makers haven't announced their next series of cards as yet. Generally by this time, newer generation cards start showing up in the market, but this year we're still waiting for an official announcement on the availability of GTX 600 and HD 7000 series cards.

The GTX 500 series comprised the refreshed Fermi architecture with higher number of texture units and shader units than the GTX 400 series and it also took care of the heating and noise issues that had marred the GTX 400 series of cards. AMD started off with the HD 68xx series cards and later introduced its higher-end HD 69xx series in the single GPU segment. As time passed by, AMD and NVIDIA came out with newer cards covering every segment, and in each segment, AMD cards were outperformed by NVIDIA.

Zero1 Winner

ZOTAC GTX 590

When it came to selecting one winner, we had to go with the ZOTAC GTX 590 as its scores were higher in over 50 per cent of our benchmarks. The GTX 590 comprises a pair of GF110 GPUs (i.e. GTX 580) but is clocked at a safe 607 MHz which is slower than the 772 MHz on GTX 580. The GTX 590 was better in ***STALKER: Call of Pripyat***, ***Resident Evil 5*** and the ***Unigine Heaven 2.5*** benchmark whereas in ***FarCry2*** and ***3D Mark 11*** the HIS HD 6990 was better. Performance in ***Crysis Warhead*** was within the margin of error. Overall this card is a monster and quite great even for a three monitor setup, thanks to 3 GB of video RAM.

Worthy Mentions

HIS HD 6990

This was the dual GPU card from AMD which gave a close competition to the Zero1 winner in most benchmarks. The HD 6990 is basically two Cayman GPUs in CrossFire which means two times the specs of a HD 6970 card. That means 3072 shader processors, 64 ROPs and 4GB of video RAM among other things.



ZOTAC GTX 590
Price: ₹49,000



HIS HD 6990
Price: ₹39,000



ASUS GTX 580 Matrix Edition
Price: ₹35,000

Performance-wise it was the best as far as AMD cards went. As for the NVIDIA competition, it all boils down to what games you're going to play. Some games favour the NVIDIA card whereas AMD scores ahead in the others. So it's safe to assume that at the top end of dual GPU cards from both stables, performance really is a matter of the games you choose.

ASUS GTX 580 Matrix Edition

Coming from the Republic of Gamers series, the single GPU based ASUS GTX 580 Matrix edition is one superfast card. As far as single GPU cards go, the GTX 580 outperforms the HD 6970. This card is tailor-made for overclockers thanks to its features which include Direct CU II for faster heat dissipation and the glow of the backlight on the ASUS logo on the card changes colour based on temperatures. It has ProBelt voltage readout points. The TweakIT buttons allow you to tweak the voltages on the fly and the large red button on the PCB takes the fan speed to 100 per cent. Performance-wise, like we mentioned earlier, it beats any other single GPU card from present generation. Pricing is admittedly steep but if you have the cash to spend, you won't get a more feature-rich card which performs as wonderfully.



iOmega Screenplay DX 1 TB
Price: ₹12,999

HD Media Players

Today, given the availability of huge storage options, the practice of accumulating multimedia content is growing rapidly. People have started archiving their favourite movies, music, images and all other possible sorts of media content. And with the advent of HDTV's, a strong desire to enjoy all the archived media content in HD glory has increased. The market demanded a device that could take all the stored media content and play them in HD clarity; HD media players were thus born. We have seen a flurry of HD media players especially in the past one year, as the manufacturers try to pip each other. It is amazing to see how the HD media player market has evolved in the recent past. From the initial HD media players that couldn't support all formats of media - to those that could - then to those that incorporated all the networking abilities and to now, where the players possess all of the above features with a fat storage device built-in. The UI of most HD media players still is difficult to use, the upscaling quality on many players needs improvement, a few formats still remain unsupported. However, having said that, the HD media player manufacturers are headed in the right direction, and how these the products will evolve is something the year 2012 will answer.



D-Link's Boxee Box

The recently released D-Link's Boxee Box is a media streamer that lets you find TV programs from the internet and deliver it to your TV. In the coming year, you will find a lot of companies launching Boxee based devices.

DLNA certification

DLNA has finally become a standard protocol among smart products. You can now stream all your mobile or pc content to any DLNA certified device and vice versa.



LG Smart TV

If you thought HD TV's were the next big thing, then probably you haven't heard of Smart TV's. LG and Samsung have already launched their Smart TV's in the market and are now pressing developers for new applications for them.



WD Live TV HUB 1 TB

It has by far the simplest User Interface yet and it also delivers fantastic upscaling performance.
Price: ₹11,990



Asus O! Play HDP R1

The Asus O! Play HDP R1 delivers excellent upscaling performance and is budget friendly.
Price: ₹5,465

Zero1 Winner

This year the Zero1 award goes to the iOmega Screenplay DX 1 TB. With 1TB of in-built storage, easy to use XMB- styled UI and excellent performance, it's one of the best HD media players available today. But what truly makes this HD media player a winner is the QWERTY keyboard sporting unique remote that the player comes with. The remote is nothing like what we have seen on a media player before. It not only made the navigation a breeze, but also gave us an amazing web-browsing experience. The only disappointment we had with the device was the UI albeit easy to use, it lacks aesthetics.

Worthy Mentions

Not far behind are media players one each from Asus and Western Digital. The **Asus O! Play HDP R1**, not only delivers amazing performance but also is extremely budget friendly. The **WD Live TV Hub 1 TB** on the other hand has the best UI among all the HD media players today. It also delivers a fantastic upscaling performance.

Android phones

It's safe to say that it hasn't been a smooth ride for Android in 2011. It has come under immense pressure from rival smartphone OSes. And its biggest rival has been the Apple iOS. Looking at how the two companies deal with the OS through its development and implementation stages, we can see how two differing approaches can still be hugely successful, within the same ecosystem.

While Apple likes to keep a tight control on hardware, software and services, Android's success has been with the numerous smartphones from multiple handset makers. Secondly, Android has been more liberal and welcoming towards applications for the Android Market, something Apple has very strict guidelines about.

While Android has generated superb numbers, there's a bit of a problem as well – the experience isn't as smooth and fluid as with an iOS device. This is where Apple's decision to keep a very close watch on the hardware has paid off. Google can't really do that, with multiple smartphone makers involved. Case in point being the UI skins (HTC Sense, MotoBlur etc.) that smartphone makers install over and above Android OS, in an attempt to differentiate their product in the market. While testing these devices, we've noticed often that these skins also tend to hamper performance – badly written code, poor memory optimisation and features that load the hardware are the primary causes. Which is exactly why Google has made it clear that no customisations of this proportion will be allowed with Android 3.0 and beyond.

However, while Apple has the iPhone, Google's Android comes on smartphones made by Samsung, HTC, LG and Motorola, to name a few. This allowed Android to be offered to the consumer at price points starting well under ₹10,000 and being a price-sensitive market, that's exactly what helped the numbers.

Zero1 Winner

Samsung Galaxy SII

There's absolutely no doubt about it – this is *the* best Android smartphone you can buy at the moment. Excellent performance, a sleek form factor, impressive display and a surprisingly good battery life – what more can a smartphone offer?

Detailed review: http://goo.gl/ChIek



Samsung Galaxy SII
Price: ₹32,890

Worthy Mentions

LG Optimus 3D

If you pray to the Gods of 3D, how can you have a phone without 3D? Get this for an amazing multi-dimensional experience.

Detailed review: http://goo.gl/IQ755



LG Optimus 3D
Price: ₹37,000

HTC Sensation

True to HTC tradition, this is a phone that looks good and whose raw OS performance is excellent.

Detailed review: http://goo.gl/fd8LM

HTC ChaCha

Offers the best of both worlds, with a touchscreen and QWERTY. For the social networking fans.

Detailed review: http://goo.gl/4Cj8r



HTC Sensation
Price: ₹29,600



HTC ChaCha
Price: ₹17,990

TouchWiz 4.0

The Galaxy S II boasts of Samsung's latest UI, called the TouchWiz 4.0. It completely replaces the default Android UI to provide a unique experience and features slick animations and transitions.

Smartphones

For the sake of offering more options to the consumers, we've kept Android smartphones in a separate category, and the rest of the smartphones in this category, largely because of the sheer number of Android phones we've reviewed this year. And boy, have we seen some competition this year!

However, the competition wasn't just offered by Apple's iOS. At the time of writing this, Microsoft's Windows Phone 7.5 (Mango) based smartphones were trickling into the test centre, and we must say, we're impressed by what we see. We believe this will be the hottest smartphone OS next year, once we see enough handsets in the market. Earlier in the year, Symbian managed to get up for one more fight, with the Anna update really helping the truly terrible Symbian 3 get better and become more usable. Not to forget that Research in Motion (RIM) released two OS versions for the Blackberry smartphones this year – the OS6 and the OS7. Just shows the amount of work being put into making the OS come on the same track as iOS and Android, as far as the user experience is concerned. And did we forget Bada? No we didn't! Samsung has launched the Wave 3 in India, and we'll offer a detailed review of how Bada 2.0 performs, soon.

Zero1 Winner

BlackBerry Bold Touch 9900

This is the sleekest Blackberry smartphone we've seen till date, and brings the dual world goodness of a touchscreen plus a physical QWERTY keypad. Speaking of which, this keypad always makes us cry out with joy, for this is the very best we've seen in any smartphone till date, let alone a BlackBerry itself. The phone comes with the latest OS7, and having used the OS6 quite a lot, we can say that RIM is going in the right direction with the updates – superb performance, the Liquid Graphics, HD video recording and a very good touchscreen.

Detailed review: http://goo.gl/eACg7





Samsung Omnia W

Price: ₹19,990



Nokia E6

Price: ₹16,160

Worthy Mentions

Samsung Omnia W

This is the first phone that we reviewed with Windows Phone 7 post the Mango update (that bumped it to 7.5), and if this is how impressed we are, you can safely says WP is off to a flying start! The UI is absolutely smooth, and the background app load tends to make absolutely no difference. This comes as no surprise considering that the device runs on a 1.4GHz processor and 512 MB of RAM. The Mango update vastly increases the visual appeal of the OS as well as improves the functionality. The live tiles with their simple animations look especially slick. The device is also home to a gorgeous 3.7" AMOLED display, the only issue with it being the extremely cramped keyboard in portrait mode. But the performance, that is what makes us cry with tears of joy. This is what Android was supposed to be.

Detailed review: http://goo.gl/fUiLm

Nokia E6

This is the logical successor to the hugely successful Nokia E72, and this one builds on that brilliance. The new Symbian Anna OS is able to handle the fun bits as well as the BlackBerry rivalling usage scenarios. The device performs well, but it is let down by the choice of processor and RAM. A 680MHz and 256 MB RAM just doesn't cut it anymore. The build quality of the device is very nice and it fits nicely in the hand as well. It's a heavy phone though. The battery life was surprisingly good, lasting almost two full days on a single charge. The build quality, slim form factor, a touch-screen that works, the very comfortable QWERTY keypad and the battery life is what really impressed us on this device. Placed bang in the middle of the BlackBerry Curve 3G and the Touch 9900, Nokia has its target clearly in sight.

Detailed review: http://goo.gl/HaFZB

BlackBerry Bold Touch 9900

Price: ₹33,000



READ DETAILED REVIEWS OF TOP RATED MOBILE PHONES AT http://bit.ly/thinkdigit_phones



Apple iPad 2

Apple rules the tablet roost, and if you have no real budget, you just cannot get a better tablet than the iPad. Even if another tablet does overtake it on the performance front, the sheer amount of apps available would still win it at least a Best Buy Award

Price: ₹36,900

Tablets

Tablets as a device still evoke extreme reactions. It isn't really a case of the traditional love it-hate it reaction, but more of a want it-see no purpose scenario. However, that hasn't stopped the market from being flooded with a slew of tablets all out to take on that one elusive market leader, the Apple iPad.

Simply put, there are two OSes in the battlefield – Apple's iOS and Google's Android, with WebOS out of the picture and Windows yet to make any solid appearance. Just like in the smartphone segment, one iOS device is fighting against literally a dozen Android tablets. And it's doing quite well in the battle, as the latest IDC figures suggest – the iPad has 68 per cent tablet market share while Android has just 27 per cent.

The year 2011 saw the demise of HP's WebOS from the tablet market, but looking forward to 2012, we'll see a slew of Windows tablets. Going by what we've experienced with Windows Phone 7 post the Mango update, expectations are high. Android is finding it tougher than expected to match the experience offered by the iOS, with constant efforts to reach that goal. This struggle has been surprising, but also a validation of Apple's "closed" environment theory.



Samsung Galaxy Tab 750

Price: ₹36,200



Motorola Xoom

Price: ₹35,000

Zero1 Winner

Apple iPad 2

There really was no doubt about this one. The iPad 2 was built on the good work of the first gen version, and offered more power in a slimmer package. At the same time, it kept features like the display the same as the previous one, following the adage of "if it ain't broke, don't fix it". Keeping the OS largely similar, Apple has ensured support for most iPhone apps on the tablet as well. And unlike Android, the "made for tablet" apps were available quickly, and in larger numbers. Plenty of Android tablets around, but buy this if you want ***the*** best tablet in the market.

Worthy Mentions

Samsung Galaxy Tab 750

After much teeth-gnashing and hair-pulling, finally one tablet emerges from the Android stable that's well and truly capable of going up to the iPad 2 and not get an inferiority complex. And the Tab 750 is even slimmer than the iPad 2! Of all the Android tablets that we've tested, this one has a far superior performance. If you're hellbent on buying an Android tablet, this is the one you should strongly consider.

Detailed review: http://goo.gl/YtOrQ

Motorola Xoom

If for some reason you don't really like the Samsung Galaxy Tab 750, there's a very capable alternative in the Motorola Xoom. It performs well, has a good build quality with some unique design elements and in general, feels worth the price. The only real niggle is that it feels bulky in the company of such slim tablets!

Detailed review: http://goo.gl/IpEBn

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iPod touch 4G
Price: ₹19,000 **(32GB)**

PMP

The PMP is a dying breed, fast approaching extinction and very few people actually care about them. This was quite evident this year with very few new and notable PMPs being launched. The culprit here is the smartphone. The mobile is our ever-present companion and with almost all phones coming with 3.5mm jacks and the ability to play back MP3 files, it seems to be sufficient for most of us. Audiophiles will be sorely disappointed by this trend, but they're few and far in between. To curb their appetite, companies like Cowon and Sony keep churning out audiophile grade PMPs at intervals. The PMP has become so much more that in a way, you can say that the PMP has evolved into a smartphone or vice-versa.

Zero1 Winner

Apple iPod touch 4G

The iPod touch 4G is this year's Zero1 Award winner. A PMP that needs no introduction, the iPod touch was the winner last year as well. Currently called the iPod touch 4G, the device comes packed to the gills with every feature that you could ever want on a portable device. Everything except a phone that is. Backed by a solid OS and the world's largest app store, this device is more of a portable computer than a PMP. The audio quality of the device is good as is the quality of volume levels. Of course, PMPs from Sony and Cowon are quite capable of providing competitive sound quality owing to the hardware they use, but very few devices can actually provide the kind of experience this device can.



Sony NWZ E454
Price: ₹6,990 **(8GB)**



Cowon C2
Price: ₹6,200 **(4GB)**

Worthy Mentions

Sony NWZ E454

The Sony NWZ E454 is a feature-packed PMP in its own way. The features in question are dedicated to music playback, including lyrics support, variable speed playback, sectional looping, karaoke and even SenseMe technology (analyses your tracks and helps categorise them as per different moods). The device is well-built but the slippery finish meant that it almost slipped through our fingers a few times. The bundled earphones are decent in terms of sound quality but lack in comfort and noise isolation. Where the device does shine is in its audio quality. The playback on our reference HD428s was good and we had nothing to complain about. Another thing to note is the UI. It is extremely friendly and intuitive and more geared towards easy database management, reaffirming the belief that it's not just Apple that can come up with a good, intuitive UI.

Cowon C2

The Cowon C2 tries to pack in much in a tiny form factor which is good, but some things like documents, notepad, etc., seem unnecessary. The resistive touchscreen is also quite sluggish. More focussed on audio, the C2 manages to provide excellent sound quality though the volumes levels are lacking when compared to the Apple iPod Nano. The bundled earphones are decent and provide good isolation, but we feel that a good set of IEMs will bring out the best in this device. It supports almost all audio formats, including lossless formats such as FLAC and WAV. This, coupled with the superb audio quality and the provision of an expansion slot, make it a worthy contender in this category.

Point-and-shoot cameras



Olympus XZ-1

Price: ₹25,999

It was a busy year for the point-and-shoot digital camera segment, with smartphones sporting very competent imaging capabilities, digital cameras had to up their game to justify their existence. The usual megapixel race was replaced by the race for newer, smarter sensors with the latest tech like back-illuminated CMOS sensors for better low-light capability, faster processors for speedy overall operation and better lenses to allow for more flexibility and creativity when filming stills and videos. Digital video recording in cameras almost took the same stage as still photography with most cameras sporting full HD – 1080p video capture and some even offering high-speed video capture at 60 fps. The industry focused on improving upon areas like low-light shooting, faster and smarter auto-focusing and offering more optical zoom in compact form factors. The travel-zoom category saw the most action with cameras offering as much as 18x of optical zoom along with better quality sensors for low-light shooting, all compressed in a compact, pocketable form factor.

Apart from the basics, manufacturers also included new features such as GPS, Wi-Fi connectivity, 3D capture and touchscreen-based models to create unique differentiators in a very crowded marketplace.

The LCD screens saw a significant jump in resolution, size and technology. The next wave of point-and-shoot cameras in 2012 are expected to inch closer to professional quality output by using larger sensors, for capturing more detail and better high-ISO performance. Cameras are also expected to drastically improve in the speed department, offering reduced shutter-lag and increased focus speed. The back-illuminated CMOS sensors are expected to almost become a norm with even the most basic cameras boasting improved low-light performance.



Back illuminated Sensor (BSI or BI)

A back-illuminated sensor, also known as backside illumination (BSI or BI) sensor, is a type of digital image sensor that uses a novel arrangement of the imaging elements to increase the amount of light captured and thereby improve on low-light performance.



Canon Powershot S95

Price: ₹21,995



HDR mode in cameras

High Dynamic Range (HDR) mode is useful in obtaining accurate exposure in extreme shooting conditions where it's difficult to obtain accurate exposure in the lightest and the darkest areas of the frame. It's done so by rapidly capturing multiple exposures of the same scene and combining it into a single image.

Zero1 Winner

Olympus XZ-1

The XZ-1 is by far the best point-and-shoot camera that we tested in 2011. The image quality of the XZ-1 is almost in the same league as the larger and more expensive micro 4/3rd cameras. Olympus has opted for a killer combination of a larger sensor and fast F1.8 iZuiko lens for the XZ-1, resulting in super-sharp images with lots of detail and punchy colors. The Olympus XZ-1 scored 85 per cent in our performance test for exceptional performance in low-light shooting and its unique ability to offer very good control over depth of field, just like the dSLRs. While the image quality itself is sufficient enough to take it to the top spot, the rugged construction, brilliant 610K OLED screen, HD video capture, intuitive control ring around the lens and excellent art filters make Olympus XZ-1 the most desirable point-and-shoot camera today.

Worthy Mention

Canon Powershot S95

The Canon Powershot S95 is the only camera that came close to the Olympus ZX-1, thanks to the F2.0 lens and a larger 1/1.7" sensor inside the camera. The Canon S95 scored 80 per cent in our performance tests. It offers HD video recording at 24 fps. Apart from the image quality and speedy overall operation, the Canon Powershot S95 also excels in portability, being extremely easy to carry along.

dSLRs

The dSLR segment in 2011 was all about changing the perception of dSLRs from being strictly for the serious shooters and professionals to a viable alternative for end-users. Pricing played an important role in bringing the dSLR segment closer to the common man; one can now buy a fairly capable entry-level dSLR for under ₹30,000. Video was a big addition to dSLRs with many entry-level as well as enthusiast models offering full-HD video recording. Vendors like Sony and Nikon also launched compact models to attract buyers who were put off by the bulky bodies of the traditional dSLRs. In a bid to maintain the image quality gap against the micro 4/3rd and compact system cameras, sensors across all dSLR categories went through a refresh, improving on high ISO performance and dynamic range as compared to the previous generation. Similarly, most of the default kit lenses offered by the newer models came with image stabilisation as a default feature, something that's popularly associated with the point-and-shoot segment. Upgrades in the LCD screen size and resolution and standardisation of the live-view mode indicates focus on end-users, as they would find more value in a live-view mode as compared to the hard-core dSLR users who swear by the accuracy of the optical view-finder.

Zero1 Winner

Canon EOS-1D Mark IV

Our test lab reviewed a wide range of dSLRs in 2011 and there was one dSLR that we found hard to fault, the Canon EOS-1D Mark IV. This professional dSLR topped our performance charts, scoring 80 per cent. The 1D Mark IV even managed to go past the more expensive full-frame Nikon D3x dSLR in the low-light tests. The Mark IV has a crop sensor, called APS-H by Canon, that's larger than APS-C. It offers the best of both worlds – better performance in low light than APS-C sensors and higher burst rates than in full-frame models. The camera is built like a tank, has great in-hand feel, tight seams, weather sealing, metal body – the works. With its high-speed shooting, and amazingly clean and detailed output quality of up to ISO 3200, the 1D Mark IV is really meant for action sports shooters or for pros looking to shoot wildlife.



Nikon D7000

Price: ₹74,950 (with AF-S 18-105mm VR Kit Lens)



Nikon D5100

Price: **₹39,950** (with AF-S 18-55mm VR Kit Lens)

Worthy Mentions

Nikon D7000

The Nikon D7000 came extremely close to the Canon EOS-1D Mark IV in terms of pure image quality performance, although it might not have the build quality or speed of the Mark IV. The high-quality sensor in the Nikon D7000 produced breathtaking images all the way upto ISO 3200, preserving a good amount of detail and keeping the noise at minimal levels. The overall performance of the Nikon D7000 is evidently better than the more expensive Canon EOS 7D and the Canon EOS 60D, enough said. If you're looking for a solid enthusiast's dSLR that will serve you well till you're ready to enter the world of professional digital photography, look no further than the Nikon D7000.

Nikon D5100

The Nikon D5100 is another gem that shows similar characteristics as the Nikon D7000. Scoring very high in the image quality department, the extras in terms of Full HD video recording, fast focusing system and a compact yet rugged body ensure all the ingredients for a perfect entry-level dSLR.



Canon EOS-1D Mark IV

Price: **₹2,59,995** (with kit lens)

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Gaming Laptops

In terms of pure performance on a mobile computer, gaming laptops reign supreme (along with mobile workstations). They're as powerful as any mainstay desktop PC, earning themselves the title of "desktop replacements", besides being great for fragging.

Not much has changed with gaming laptops over the years. Today, all manufacturers boast Intel-based chipsets with high-end quad-core processors (eg: the latest Sandy Bridge Core i7 chips), while the laptop's accompanying graphics are sourced either from Nvidia or AMD – the GeForce 500M and Radeon HD 6000M series, respectively, currently doing the rounds.

For added graphics chops, Nvidia's SLI and AMD's CrossFireX are added. Some gaming laptops do support stereoscopic 3D displays for gaming in 3D, but apart from a few models launched this year, the trend isn't widely prevalent throughout the industry. Due to the larger frames of gaming laptops, 14 to 17-inch form factors manufacturers are trying to improve and fine-tune the end-user experience – for e.g., MSI's G series laptops has Dynaudio speakers onboard, possibly the best sound we've heard on any laptop till date.

The full gamut of connectivity ports is another plus. We've only seen Blu-ray ROMs in a select few made-to-order gaming laptop configurations, and we hope it becomes a de facto standard in gaming laptops very soon.

Zero1 Winner

ASUS G74SX

The overall best performing gaming laptop of the year, and winner of the coveted Zero1 awards is the ASUS G74SX. The G74SX narrowly out-performed the Alienware M17x; the ASUS laptop sports a 17.3-inch full-HD widescreen display, an Intel Core i7-2630QM processor, 16 GB of RAM, 1TB hard drive and NVIDIA GeForce GTX560M graphics with 3GB dedicated memory. This monster machine easily handles the latest and greatest games without breaking a sweat – ***Far Cry 2*** at 1920x1080 and High settings ran at 46.1 FPS, while *DiRT 3* at 1920x1080 and maximum settings ran at 22.6 FPS, very good for the laptop's hardware. A great buy if you can shell out the ₹1.2-lakh premium it demands.

Worthy Mentions

Alienware M17x

While we speak highly of the Asus G74SX, we'd also like to mention the Alienware M17x which gave the ASUS laptop a great run for its money. Apart from pure performance, the M17x's biggest draw is its iconic design and customisable glowing LED lights. Great buy for someone looking for a distinctive gaming laptop to show off at LAN parties.



Asus G74SX

Price: ₹1,20,000



Lightest gaming laptop

If you want the lightest gaming laptop out there, just go for the Alienware M11x. It has a compact 11-inch form factor and weighs around 2 kgs, but has the right hardware to pack a performance punch.



Razer Blade

It's the company's flagship 17-inch gaming laptop, with 10 dynamic keys and an LCD screen to the right of the keyboard that supports multitouch input. Specs are in line with any modern gaming laptop capable of handling latest 3D games.



Alienware M17x

Price: ₹1,65,000



MSI GT680R

Price: ₹1,19,999

MSI GT680R

Apart from high-performance, the GT680R gaming laptop from MSI has Dynaudio speakers, and with that comes one of the best audio experiences we've ever encountered on a laptop.



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Netbooks

Netbooks have been around ever since ASUS launched the 7-inch Eee PC back in 2007. The word "netbook" was coined by Intel to promote a new platform aimed towards a new market segment wanting mini-laptops. These are extremely small, light and compact to carry around. Not great in terms of number-crunching performance but they offer 6-7 hours of battery life. Not bad for a sub-₹20k mobile PC right?

Since then and now, tablets are outselling and replacing netbooks as the fastest-growing consumer and personal technology segment. These tiny mini-laptops have come a long way. In such a short span of four years, Intel has rolled out several iterations of the Atom Pineview chipset – 45nm – while a 32nm update to Atom, code-named Cedar Trail, is scheduled for launch some time later next year.

Look forward to netbooks based on Intel's Cedar Trail 32nm chipset with up to two cores, DDR3 RAM support, 1MB L2 cache, DirectX 10.1 support and clock frequencies of up to 2.13 GHz in the coming year. We have no doubt these hardware updates will help Intel and future netbooks tame the Internet, which has definitely been improved and refined since when netbooks first debuted back in 2007. Don't rule out AMD just yet, they're cooking upgrades to the existing Fusion APU (CPU + GPU on same silicon die) line to counter Intel's strides in the 10-inch netbook and 12-inch thin-n-light laptop range. Who will win? The consumer, most definitely.



Acer Aspire One 522

Price: ₹18,203



ASUS Eee PC 1015PW

Price: ₹23,600



Cloud storage

Since netbooks have physical constraints and are meant to be low-priced, they're seldom equipped with high-capacity hard drives. To negate that problem, ASUS offers free cloud-based storage of your data, up to 500 GB free for a year. All you need is a fast internet connection.



Designer netbook

The ASUS Eee PC 1008P Karim Rashid is unlike any other netbook you've seen. It dresses itself in a reptilian, crocodile-skin exterior that feels premium and quite exclusive. The designer surface extends from the screen lid to the bottom panel, ensuring the netbook is mistaken for a high-end designer accessory. Will make heads turn, let us assure you.

Zero1 Winner

Acer Aspire One 722

There weren't a lot of netbooks, to be honest, as the category dipped on account of the tablet charge all over the world. Still, some OEMs did launch a few netbook offerings. Out of them, the best performing netbook we tested was the Acer Aspire One 722, sporting a 11.6-inch thin form factor and based on AMD's Fusion chipset. Not only does the Aspire One 722's AMD C-50 APU match up to Intel Atom's CPU performance, but its onboard AMD Radeon HD 6250 DirectX 11 graphics ensures better graphics potential than any Intel Atom chip. Plus, the 11-inch netbook offers very good battery life – just over four hours. It is undoubtedly the best performance netbook of this year.

Worthy Mentions

Coming in behind, a close second and third would be the **Acer Aspire One 522** and Asus **Eee PC 1015PW**, respectively. Out of the two, the Acer Aspire One 522 is based on the AMD Fusion chipset while the Eee PC 1015PW has an Intel Atom chip inside. Both netbooks are very good for the price they're sold at and a safe bet to go with if you can't get your hands on the Acer Aspire One 722.



Acer Aspire One 722

Price: ₹18,999



MFDs: HP OFFICEJET PRO 8500A PLUS
Price: ₹18,499

Multi-functional Devices

Printing, copying and scanning are so yesterday. Today's MFDs come with these and many more features such as cloud printing, also known as e-printing, and dedicated apps for printers. With a heavy reliance on e-mailing, we wonder how long the fax functionality on MFDs will last.

Zero1 Winner

HP OfficeJet Pro 8500A Plus

It's one of the most good-looking MFDs that we've ever come across in our labs in a long time. This MFD comes with four colour cartridges – C,M,Y and K and two extra print heads – C+M and Y+K.

What we really liked about this MFD is its ability to do so many things apart from just print, copy and scan. The e-print functionality allows you to take prints by sending the document on an email ID. It has Pictbridge connectivity as well as an option to print directly from memory cards. The Google Docs app lets you print documents from Docs without even powering on your system, as long as the network connectivity is available. This just takes printing over the air to a completely new level.

Worthy Mentions

Brother MFC-J615W is a more compact MFD compared to the HP OfficeJet Pro 8500A Plus and offers network printing – both, wired and wireless. Epson ME Office 960FWD gave the best price-to-performance ratio and is worth a mention. It had won the Best Buy award in our comparison test.



8Brother MFC-J615W
Price: ₹10,390



Epson ME Office 960FWD
Price: ₹14,999



HP OfficeJet 6000 e609a
Price: ₹4,999

Photo Printers

Nothing much happened in the photo printers segment this year, apart from manufacturers launching new printers to refresh their respective printer product lines. Here are the winners:

Zero1 Winner

Canon Pixma iP4870

Hands down, the Pixma iP4870 was the best photo printer we tested this year. Photo prints from the Pixma iP4870 reproduced skin tones and glow extremely well, and saturation levels were just right. Gradients were smooth, reflection and shadow were believable, and the overall photos were crisp. In terms of spewing out prints from its tray, it was the fastest printer we encountered. So, both, in terms of speed and photo print quality, the Canon Pixma iP4870 is the Zero1 Award winner for this year.

Worthy Mentions

In terms of performance, the HP OfficeJet 6000 e609a was one of the star attractions this year. Not only was it one of the highest scoring in terms of pure performance (time taken and quality of prints), it is also feature-rich. Colours, details and black levels were much better in our test photo prints on the OfficeJet 6000 e609a compared to most others.

PHOTO PRINTERS: CANON PIXMA IP4870
Price: ₹8,155





TPLink-TL-MR3420
Price: ₹5,399

Wireless Routers

With the rising number of people adopting broadband internet in the country, Wi-Fi routers (otherwise uninteresting, mundane boxes) are in great demand and enjoying a revival of sorts after a brief lull in sales the past couple of years. Not only are they useful for giving your PCs and laptops the freedom to access the web without any ethernet cables, but having a wireless router in your home allows internet access to compatible HDTVs, game consoles, NAS boxes, media streamers, tablets and smartphones.

Almost all wireless routers are phasing out support for WEP, the encryption protocol that's no longer safe. Routers featuring Wi-Fi 802.11n, gigabit ethernet ports, operating in single band frequencies are pretty much the staple. However, we're starting to see wireless routers that sport features largely applicable in the near future, but they're still selling at inflated prices compared to others. What are these slightly advanced features? Things like IPv6 support (as IPv4 addresses are set to exhaust next year), dual-band operation (2.4 GHz and 5 GHz support), 3G data card support, multiple USB ports to connect storage devices, media players, etc. are still features present in a select few, expensive routers right now. But with so many different companies trying to outmatch each other, expect prices of such routers to fall in the coming year. However, keep in mind that sporting a myriad of features and delivering maximum performance are two mutually exclusive aspects of a router – one may lead to another in some cases but not for all.

Next year, we look forward to comparing simultaneous dual-band routers and check what sort of transfer speeds they can offer. Since the 5 GHz channel isn't used by many devices, transfer speeds are significantly higher compared to the 2.4 GHz band which is crowded.



TPLink-TL-WR1043ND-04
Price: ₹5,999



Belkin Basic
Price: ₹2,399

DLNA routers

Digital Living Network Alliance or DLNA certified routers go one step closer to achieving true wireless home entertainment nirvana. Plug in a hard drive with media and access it through a DLNA compliant device within the network—could be a HDTV, a PS3 or Xbox 360, or more.

Boost router's signal strength

A simple way to boost your router's signal strength is by changing its operating channel. Use a free Wi-fi scanning tool like inSSIDer to see how many Wi-fi networks exist in your vicinity and what channels they operate on. If the channel's crowded, just access your router's admin interface and switch to a less congested channel.

Zero1 Winner

TPLink-TL-MR3420

Of all the routers we tested this year, the best performing one definitely was the TPLink TL-MR3420 and it fully deserves our coveted Zero1 Award. It was the best router in terms of total throughput speed tested from three fixed distances, whether it was transferring small 50MB image files or streaming a full-HD 1080p movie. Not only was the TL-MR3420 well-built and mighty in performance, it also had a very good feature set and connectivity options – four LAN ports, a USB port and support for 3G data cards. It didn't have dual-band support but unless you constantly transfer a lot of files between devices, this feature shouldn't matter.

Worthy mentions

A couple of routers that came close to upsetting the winner were the **TPLink TL-WR1043ND** and **Belkin Basic**. On performance, the former managed to score 65 per cent and the latter, 63 per cent, respectively. The TL-WR1043ND looks almost identical to the winner, while the tiny, portable Belkin Basic reinforces the point that very good performance and feature set are mutually exclusive. The Belkin router, in particular, is a great buy for its relatively low price in comparison to the other two TPLink devices.

Gaming Input Devices

What counts as the best gaming keyboard or the best gaming mouse is a question that perhaps goes back to the times when PC games in their present form came into existence. In the end, it boils down to what you're comfortable with as a gamer. We had a tough time selecting winners for this category; most of the tests were more or less, subjective. All the same, the winners are packed with a host of features which will be useful to nearly all gamers out there.

KEYBOARDS

Zero1 Winner

Logitech G510

The keyboard oozes awesomeness all around. The thing is loaded with features –a 160x43 monochrome backlit LCD screen with 5 navigation buttons, 18 macro keys and 3 macro profiles, which fundamentally results in 54 macro keys, 5-KRO, a nifty "drum" style volume control, gaming mode and audio headers. It also throws in on-the-fly macro recording and profile switching. The LCD screen which shows your HUD when inside a game, Windows Media Player controls, date/time, RSS feeds and the current CPU/Memory load feels a bit gimmicky (one seldom plays *WoW*, with the eyes glued to the keyboard) but even with the LCD chopped off, it remains an excellent keyboard.

Worthy Mentions

Razer Black Widow Ultimate Stealth Edition

This is actually a decent piece of hardware for those who don't want keyboards to look and feel like a spaceship dashboard, and just a keyboard with a game mode with few macro keys thrown in. What works against this keyboard is its exorbitant price and the measly 1-year warranty period.

MICE

Zero1 Winner

Logitech G9x

This nifty little gadget is a brilliant piece of engineering, providing a host of features to customise it according to your liking. Left and right-click buttons provide excellent feedback. The scroll-wheel works in two modes – the ratchet mode and frictionless hyper-fast scrolling mode. Precision laser tracking and 200 - 5700 dpi resolution make this mouse extremely accurate and blazingly fast in response. It also sports a "Wide Load" attachment for a comfortable palm grip and the "Precision" attachment to those who prefer a claw grip. With a multitude of features, it will serve as an excellent companion on your fragging escapades.



▲ KEYBOARD: LOGITECH G510
Price: ₹5495



Razer Black Widow Ultimate Stealth Edition
Price: ₹7,299



Logitech G500
Price: ₹3,995

Worthy Mentions

Logitech G500

This mouse is one mean critter. It has a huge chassis, which surprisingly, is extremely comfortable during use. It also features the usual high-precision laser tracking, weight tuning, multi-profile support, on-the-fly dpi and profile switching. The build is extremely sturdy – you'll have to call in a demolition crew even to put a dent on this beast.

CM Storm Inferno

This mouse is decked with a lot of bling. It packs in boatloads of buttons, profiles and settings for tweaking. But it seems that the build quality was sacrificed in lieu of the extra features. Despite pleasant ergonomics, it still feels a bit plasticy in the hand. Inspite of this, it's not a bad deal for someone who wants to do much more than just point and click with the mouse.



◀ MICE: LOGITECH G9X
Price: ₹5,795

Direct-to-Home Services

DTH services in India really matured this year. Last year, we had started to see a couple of channels in HD such as National Geographic HD and Discovery HD World. This year, DTH service providers went all out to woo customers with their HD goodies. With set-top boxes having HD recording facilities on board, it was a battle of which service provided maximum HD channels and longer hours of recording.

But this HD war also prompted certain DTH players such as Dish TV and Reliance Digital TV to make false claims over the number of true HD channels they could provide. Dish TV advertised its 45 HD channels with star ambassadors. Technically they were beaming 1080i content, but it was all upscaled content. In our exhaustive testing we cleared these doubts. Even Reliance claimed to have 250 channels in its bouquet with "HD like quality"! That's the most ridiculous tagline one could ever use, isn't it?

Always remember, true HD content is that which is actually shot in HD and transmitted as HD. By that definition there are only Discovery HD World, National Geographic HD, Movies Now, ESPN HD, Star Cricket HD, Star Plus HD, Star Movies HD, Star World HD, Star Gold HD, Travel XP HD and iConcerts HD channels that are true high-definition. Don't fall for tall claims of 50 or 250 HD channels.

Zero1 Winner

TataSky+ HD

TataSky+ HD is the winner of the Zero1 Award this year as its overall feature set and performance trounced its competition. It has one of the most intuitive and responsive user interface, and doesn't require a steep learning curve. The biggest bane of this provider, specially for football fans, was the absence of the Ten Sports bouquet, but was added after our comparison test. Also, since our test in May, TataSky has come out with an iPhone app along with an option to use your phone as a remote by plugging in a mobile infrared accessory in the phone's 3.5mm audio jack. TataSky has also introduced catch-up TV which allows you to download all the shows that you may have missed out on or not kept on record. All this for free. As a DVR, the TataSky+ HD scored much higher than its competitors.



TataSky+ HD
Price: ₹4,899*



Videocon d2h 3D HD DVR
Price: ₹4,950*



Airtel Digital TV HD Recorder
Price: ₹4,790*

Worthy Mentions

Videocon d2h 3D HD DVR

Videocon d2h 3D HD DVR is the other feature-rich HD recorder which also boasts of being India's only 3D HD set-top box. Actually, TataSky+ also has an HDMI 1.4a standard cable, which is required to transmit 3D content. But as there's hardly any 3D content being produced in India, or being broadcast for that matter and add to the fact that the 3D TV marketing blitzkrieg has given way to that of Smart TVs, we don't think 3D support in your set-top box will add any value for now. But Videocon d2h is the only service currently offering the highest number of true HD channels.

Airtel Digital TV HD Recorder

The value DTH service provider in the country has to be Airtel Digital TV HD, with economical cost of ownership for a year and a decent bouquet of HD channels thrown in, this is the service you should go for if your budget is limited. Also features such as controlling recording mechanism from your Airtel-enabled cellphone is an added incentive for the professional on the move.

*Price includes cost of set-top box and installation charges

5 Angry Birds alternatives
Fun With Death, Trucks & Skulls, Canon Cadets...
http://bit.ly/tHB6AF

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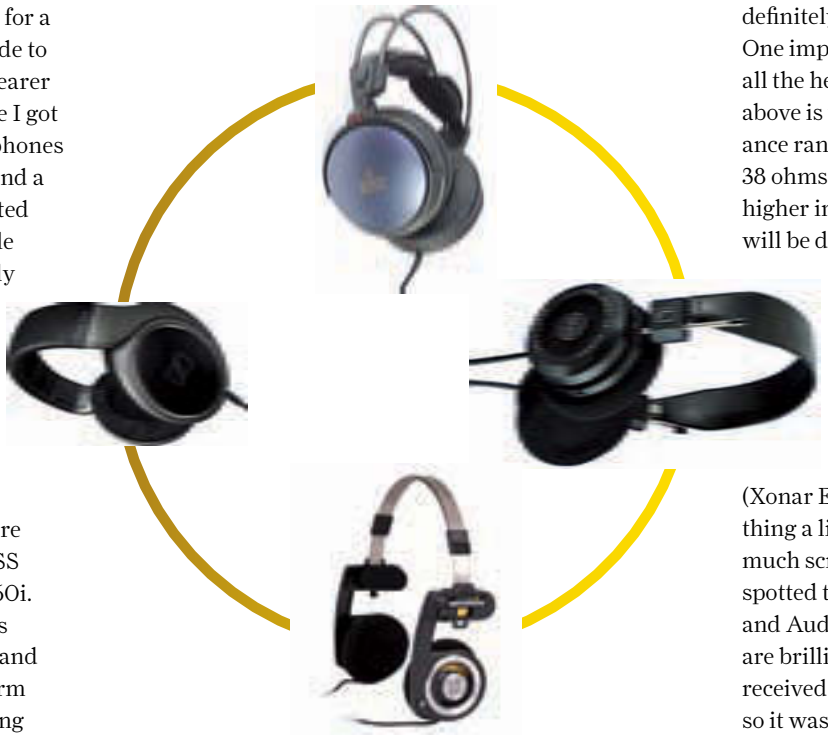
Your personal slice of audio nirvana

With the plethora of headphones available in the market, we help you pick the ideal headphone most suited to your needs

Agent 001
agentOO1@thinkdigit.com

The death of my earphones, a sad day in my life, but a good one as well. Time for a change, an upgrade to something better, bigger, clearer and louder. It was high time I got myself a good pair of headphones in a decent budget. As I spend a lot of time travelling, I wanted something that was portable to some extent, but also fully capable of taking advantage of a headphone amp or my PC's sound card if the need arose. Time to hit the streets (or the internet, as the case may be).

Straightaway the headphones that come to mind are the Sennheiser PX100, KOSS PortaPro and the Grado Sr60i. All of the above headphones are designed to be portable and can be folded up in some form or the other, the PX 100 being the most compact of them all. The KOSS headphone in particular bears special mention. Retailing for about ₹4,000, the Porta Pro is a very old design, but has been well received by the public, plus, it comes with a no-questions-asked lifetime warranty. A very good deal for the butter fingered amongst us. The PX100 comes in 2 variants – the older PX 100 I and the current PX100 II. The PX100 II retails for about ₹2,800 and is a very good buy, especially compared to the Porta Pro. The audio quality is quite similar with very little noticeable difference under normal use. Ditto the PX100 I, which, if you can hunt around for, can make for a killer deal at around ₹1,800. Unfortunately, it's no more in production and will take some effort to find. This brings me to the Grado Sr60i. I've never actually tried these headphones and was sorely tempted to place an order for it based on the very positive reviews it received. Only available online and in a few select stores, it retails for approximately ₹5,000.



For the budget conscious, I spotted a pair of Sennheiser HD202s for ₹1,300. A very decent set of headphones, it can easily match Sony and Philips headphones worth much more. It also comes bundled with an extremely long cable so you can happily connect it to your TV and enjoy the sound from the comfort of your couch. If you can't find the PX100 I, the sound quality of the Sennheiser PX80 is quite close to that of the PX100s and it's definitely worth it at the price.

One important thing to note about all the headphones mentioned above is that they all have impedance ranging from 16 ohms to 38 ohms. This is important as higher impedance headphones will be difficult to drive using just a PMP or your onboard sound card and you'll lose out on volume and depth as well.

Since I own a portable amp (E5) and have a dedicated sound card (Xonar Essence), I wanted something a little more powerful. After much scrounging around, I finally spotted the Sennheiser HD595 and Audio Technica A900. Both are brilliant headphones and have received some excellent reviews so it was a very tough decision to make. Specification-wise, both are quite similar, the major difference being in the price, ₹11,500 for the 595 and about ₹14,000 for the A900. Finally, I settled on the Sennheiser HD 595, mainly since most audiophile reviewers claimed that the difference was not much, *and* the fact that the A900, at ₹14,000 are just too expensive. A relative in the right place can get them for you at barely $200 (₹10,000). If I didn't have an amp or sound card, I would have settled for the Grado Sr60i without any hesitation. If only the A900s had been cheaper though...

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Available in a range of colors, these bracelets send you health reminders to get up and stretch or eat
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AMD A8-3850 or i5-2500k?

I'm 17 years old and need some help updating my old PC. I have all the basic components and want to update my motherboard, processor, graphics card and RAM. I want to keep the cost low. The PC will be mostly used for gaming so it should be capable of playing all the games. There's no need for higher FPS in games as I don't have the budget to buy an expensive graphics card. Please give me product names along with their prices. And is AMD A8-3850 or i5-2500k better?

Syed Arfad

Looking at your requirement – moderate gaming and regular tasks – we advise you to go for the AMD system as the Intel Core i5-2500K will require a budget in excess of ₹25,000. With an AMD Llano processor, you can buy a cheaper graphics card and then use the combined power of the integrated graphics and the discrete card we're suggesting.

- **Processor:** AMD A8-3850 – ₹7,000
- **Motherboard:** Gigabyte A75M-UD2H ₹6,500
- **Graphics card:** XFX HD 6670 – ₹5,500
- **RAM:** Corsair Vengeance 4GB DDR3 RAM – ₹2,500

Laptop for ethical hacking

I have a ₹35,000-45,000 budget and am confused whether to buy Dell or Lenovo (preferably Dell 14r and 15r or Lenovo IdeaPad Z series). I've heard that Lenovo has good accessories bundled but Dell's servicing is better than Lenovo's.

Following are my requirements:

- **RAM:** 4 GB
- **Processor:** 2nd gen i5 2430 or 2nd gen i5 2410
- **Graphics card:** For Dell – AMD Radeon HD 6470m or NVIDIA GT 525M; For Lenovo – NVIDIA n12p gv1 or NIVIDIA GeForce GT 520M
- **Screen size, battery life, HDD size and style:** Doesn't matter

I'm a Computer Science student, average gamer (*NFS, StarCraft 2,* etc) and will use multiple OSes to learn ethical hacking.

Please suggest similar configurations from other brands available for cheaper.

Joseph Jayadev

For your needs, buy the Acer Aspire 5830TG Timeline X laptop. It has a 15-inch screen, comes with a Core i5-2410M processor, oodles of RAM and HDD space, and NVIDIA GeForce graphics with enough gaming chops for casual gaming. It fits very well into your budget. Read the full review here (http://goo.gl/ipvQf). If you can't lay your hands on the Aspire 5830TG, I recommend the Dell Inspiron 15R as it allows you to pick and choose the components online – I can't say about an exact model with a specific configuration because Dell keeps changing it on their web site (www.dell.co.in/laptops). But seriously, the choice is yours.



Acer Timeline 5830

Also you might want to keep an eye on the "Top 10 Laptops" section on thinkdigit.com.

Building a rig for under 35k

I wanted to build my rig. Following is the config I've decided upon:

- **Processor:** Intel Core i5 2500K – ₹10,300
- **Motherboard:** ASUS P8Z68 V – ₹11,800
- **HDD:** Seagate 500GB 200 RPM – ₹1,700
- **Memory:** GSkill 2x4GB 1600 MHz – ₹3,000
- **Cabinet:** Cooler Master AF 922 – ₹6,700
- **PSU:** Corsair TX650 – ₹5,400

The total amount comes up to ₹38,900. I would like to bring this amount to under 35K, without affecting performance much. What do you suggest I change? Also, let me know where I should buy these from.

Harsh Kotak

Looking at your rig and the absence of a dedicated graphics card, you don't need such a high-end power supply unit or cabinet. So you can get more economical parts such as: Corsair 500W CX PSU for ₹3,200 or the Cooler Master CM Elite 311 for ₹1,900 (if you want a vanilla cabinet with no frills) or NZXT Crafted Series Guardian 921 RB for ₹4,000 (attractive looking cabinet)

This will cut down your pricing from ₹12,100 (for the PSU and cabinet you've chosen) to ₹5,100 (if you go with CM ELite 311) or ₹7,200 (if you go with NZXT cabinet) getting your budget under ₹35,000. But note that you've not added a graphics card or a monitor in the rig, so that will take your price up further.

There are online resources from where you can get them such as primeabgb.com or smcinternational.in if you're not getting great prices at your local components store.

Graphics card for gaming

I have a Dell Inspiron 530s (slim). I need a decent graphics card that can support games such as *Assassin's Creed: Brotherhood, Grand Theft Auto IV* etc.

My configuration:

- **Processor:** Intel Pentium e5200 dual core @ 2.50 GHz
- **Motherboard:** Dell Ory007
- **Graphic chipset:** p35/g33/g31
- **RAM:** 2GB ddr2

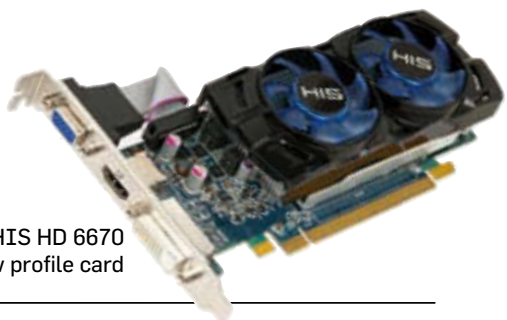
The problem is that the cabinet being slim, only low profile GPUs will work.

The ones I've shortlisted are: ATI Radeon HD 4650, Zotac GT520 PCI Express x1 and Sapphire HD 6450. My budget would be ₹5,000. Please give more suggestions and recommend the best solution.

Varun Shijo

The GT series of cards is not meant for gaming. In fact, any low power GPU for that matter is not good for gaming. They're ideal for HD content, and not much else.

If you're serious about gaming, the least you should look for is HD 6670 and above. HIS Low-Profile HD 6670 is a half-height form factor card, but you'll need to check for its availability in your locality.



HIS HD 6670 low profile card



<Exclusive> Interview with Dries Buytaert, Creator of Drupal on pg. 96. For full interview visit: dvwx.in/dec-11-dries



Android officially open source...

Finally, the dark "closed source" chapter in the history of Google's mobile operating system – Android – is now *closed*. The source code for Android 4.0 has now been made available to the developer community.

With the release of Android 3.0, Google had decided to withhold the source code of Android, and promised that it would be available in a future release. That future release would not be in the 3.x series.

Since Android's source code is stored in a Git repository, it is possible to look back in history and access the code for Android 3.0 "Honeycomb". According to Google's Android Open Source Project Engineer, Jean-Baptiste M. 'JBQ' Queru, Honeycomb was a "little incomplete" and developers should focus on "Ice Cream Sandwich". There aren't any tags demarcating any particular state of the Android source code repository as Android 3.0.

However, with the history intact, this does mean that the Android 3.x code is open source as well, and can probably be used for Android hacks such as CyanogenMod.

For detailed instructions on downloading and building the Android source code visit **dvwx.in/dec-11-1**. You can read the original announcement about the availability of the source code on the official Google Group at **dvwx.in/dec-11-2**. Beware though, you need to be calm as a cucumber to compile the Android source code! Although quite straightforward, the source code itself is a 6 GB download, and requires over 25 GB of space for building. In fact, this requirement could exceed 80 GB for a full set of builds. You will also need 16 GB of RAM! >

Read this article online at dvwx.in/vBbdw. Please share your comments on our Facebook page.

*footer

*Google announces BigQuery service

>>Perform lightning fast analyses on datasets – even if they contain billions of rows, in a matter of seconds! BigQuery is an SQL-like tool that is currently preview-only, and available to a limited number of enterprises and developers. To be included in the waiting list, you need to fill the form at:

http://dvwx.in/dec-11-6



*Get Drupal t-shirts!

>>If you love the Drupal community, it's time to show your love. For every donation of $50, you get enrolled as a member and become a proud owner of a Drupal t-shirt!

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*Node.js for Windows now available for download

>>Although based on JavaScript, Node.js doesn't run on a web browser. It is a server-side, event-driven environment based on V8. It is aimed at web servers. Unlike conventional thread-based communication, Node.js implements node-based communication. Node.js simply enters and exits a loop after executing the input script. To download, go to:

http://dvwx.in/dec-11-8

*side panel



*Forget the Plugins, Try These WordPress Hacks

>>Tired of choosing plugins to get that specific feature in your WordPress blog? Explore these cool hacks to get extra juice out of the popular PHP framework

http://dvwx.in/dec-11-3

*Cappuccino 0.9.5 released

>>This open source framework is based on JavaScript and frees you from the complexities of HTML, CSS and DOM.

http://dvwx.in/dec-11-4



*No one's perfect!

>>To err is human. But learning from failure is wise. On an emotional note, aversion to criticism makes sense. But not on a business-minded level. Here's a post by Christopher Hawkins that's still relevant.

http://dvwx.in/dec-11-5



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The modern web

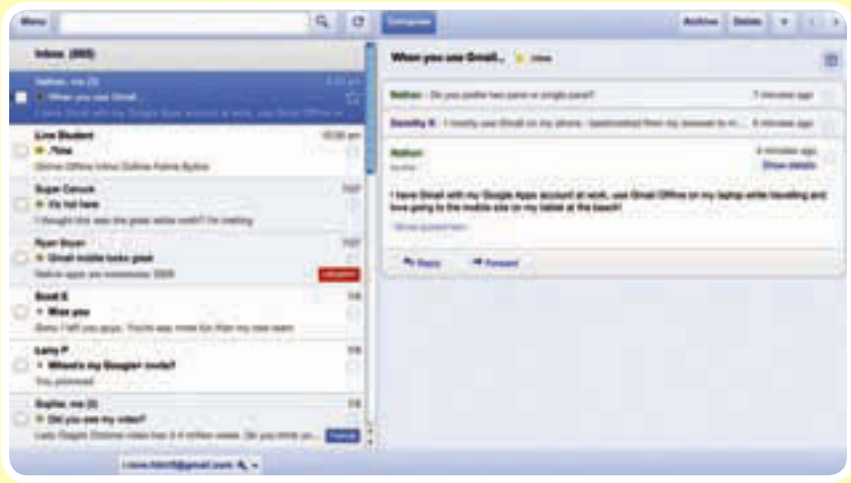
ONE PLATFORM to rule them all

<Rapid improvement in HTML5 and CSS3 has triggered browser vendors to embrace latest standards to stay competitive> **By Kshitij Sobti**

One of the more interesting things about the latest iteration of HTML is that it intends to make the whole process of rendering a web page fool proof. One of the primary limitation of the previous generation of standards has been the way browsers handle pages that aren't standards-compliant. This, unfortunately, varies across different browsers. This necessitated the use of tricks and browser-specific code that made web development an odious task. HTML5 obviates all that by defining the rules for rendering such erroneous pages, as part of the standard. With new generation standards in place, and assuming that the browser is standards compliant, you should see the exact same page replicated across all browsers!

Status quo

If you feel rampant growth in adaptibility of mobile devices is a new trend and hence standards-compliance of mobile browsers would be a major concern, you'd be surprised to know that it's the other way around. Most mobile OSs today ship with a modern browser that supports the latest web standards. In fact, browser statistics reveal that mobile devices are better prepared for newer standards.



>>GMAIL APP for tablets and smartphones with offline support, has a new UI optimised for touch as well. You can download Gmail Offline from the Chrome App Store

All major smartphone platforms, iOS, Android, BlackBerry, MeeGo, webOS, and bada include browsers with good support for emerging standards.The only platform lagging in support is Windows Phone; hopefully not for long.

It is safe to assume that the device capable of running your application also has a standards-compliant browser. More so on mobile platforms than on desktops actually.

Another important fact to consider is that unlike desktop platforms, mobile OSs offer a limited set of APIs that restrict access to the device. The web offers an even more restricted set. However, if you can create the same experience using web APIs as the device APIs, the web is obviously a better choice!

The web is also incredibly open, and that is something to embrace. The App Store (or any other store) could block your application based on their arbitrary rules, but they cannot block your web applications without crippling the device's browser.

A number of platforms are now embracing web standards as a means to create applications. MeeGo's successor, Tizen, is an HTML5-based platform, webOS entirely allows web applications, iOS allows pinning web apps as normal apps, and Android too can have bookmarks on the home screen.

The web's expanding scope

You may wonder though, can you really make a full-fledged application that runs in the browser?

Any programming language will offer you a syntax for describing logic, along with a standard library that exposes some basic system functionality. C and C++ are preferred over other languages when it comes to system programming as they offer unprecedented control over the native hardware. Although for most tasks it is easier to implement working code in many other languages. While JavaScript makes is incredibly simple to add some logic to web pages, it is limited on several other fronts. This was for a good reason of course; but, it also limited what was possible inside a browser.

This wasn't the only barrier. Imagine something like Wikipedia at a time when the internet was still new, slow, and expensive. How convenient would it have been for people to access and edit an encyclopaedia over a faltering dial-up connection, while paying large sums of money for the privilege? No, at that time even something as simple as a text-based encyclopaedia might have seemed unsuitable for the web.

The internet now reaches more people, it has become ubiquitous, cheap, and fast, and the Wikipedia model is thriving. Some now look at the increasing prevalence of web applications with disdain, because apps don't fit the browser paradigm, but that is changing.

Today it seems odd to use a native email client when it can all be done in a browser. Even though WebMail has all the failings of a website, it is slower than a native client, it is not accessible offline, and it isn't as well integrated with your system. These disadvantages are fast disappearing

though. As more people store their photos and documents online, it is only a matter of time when editing them online will feel as natural.

Gaining parity

Imagine an online image editor created a decade ago. Such an "application" would not have been able to read a local image, or manipulate it in the local browser. At most the user could select an image, upload it to the server, specify some operations to perform, and get back an edited image to download. Also such an "application" would not work offline, and would be terribly slow if your images were even a few MB. It is obvious why no one would use such an app.

Now look at how things stand today. The new File APIs will allow a web app to open and edit local files, and the Canvas API allows one to manipulate graphics making it possible to edit images in the browser itself. This is also helped by the fact that JavaScript is fast enough to do this in the browser now. Using new specifications for offline applications, a web app can be designed to work even when there is no connectivity. Other than the fact that it is running in the browser, this is quite similar to any native application.

It is unlikely that web based applications will ever reach the same parity in performance or features as native applications, however they can offer a different set of advantages that can weigh the scales in their favour. Web applications are easier to develop and update, and all your users run the latest version.There is no need to install the software, or uninstall it, just open the site and it works.

The web as a platform is becoming increasingly powerful as new standards continue to be proposed based on actual needs of developers. You can see a list of some of the things that you can achieve using new web standards in the sidebar.

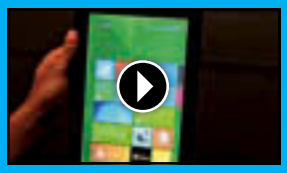
Native advantage?

Is there really an advantage to go native now? Sure performance is a concern if your application requires heavy processing. Or is it? Consider YouTube, each uploaded video is converted to a plethora of formats that are to run on all manner of devices. Many YouTube users are uploading from devices that aren't even powerful enough to encode video, so YouTube does it for them. Another example is Autodesk Homestyler that lets you model houses in 3D in your browser; these can then be rendered in high quality by Autodesk servers so they can be viewed even by users having systems too slow to do the rendering. As you can see, in these cases, the performance of a web application can be significantly more than that of a local app. You will find that most disadvantages have a counter advantage.

"A number of platforms are now embracing web standards as a means to create applications"

*pointers

>>Nuggets of cool code at work.



***Windows 8 UI for tablets**

>>David Washington, Sr Program Manager, Windows User Experience Team, Microsoft demos the Windows 8 UI for tablets
Duration > 01:21
http://dvwx.in/dec-11-p1



***Improved search in Windows 8**

>>Brian Uphoff, Program Manager, Search, View, and Command Team shares new search functions > 02:45
http://dvwx.in/dec-11-p2



***jQuery Mobile**

>>The first update for jQuery Mobile 1.0 has been released. Here, Raymond Camden gives an introduction to jQuery Mobile.
Duration > 46:22
http://dvwx.in/dec-11-p3

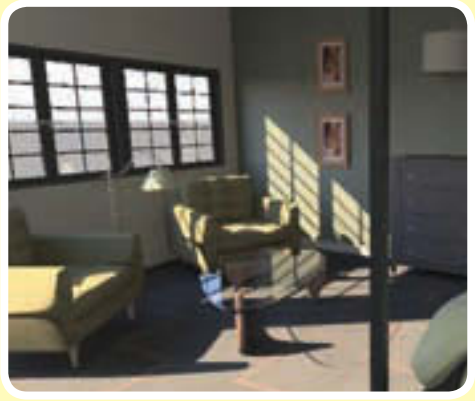


***JDK7 in a nutshell**

>>At O'Reilly OSCON Java 2011, Joe Darcy simplifies Java 7. Here's the larger picture of how Java has changed from JDK 1.2 through the years, to where it is today.
Duration > 09:34
http://dvwx.in/dec-11-p4

Today an average user will browser the internet for an application that fits their need, download it, install it, and finally run it. If it costs, then you have to pay for it and probably activate it as well. This process may need to be repeated for each update or upgrade.

Now compare this to a web application. You browse the web for an app that matches your needs, you open the app, and it just works! If you need to create an account, that is an added one time process, and payments are usually recurrent with no need to pay for upgrades. It is actually more convenient to open the website since downloading and "installing" the software isn't required. Add to this the fact that you can do this whether you are running Windows, Linux, Mac OSX, iOS, Android, BlackBerry or any esoteric OS running on any esoteric device as long as it supports a web standard capable browser, you don't need to pay again for a license. In the end, the process of using a web application is also one of downloading (your browser does this, and if supported it caches it), "installing" (or creating a bookmark), and then launching (via the bookmark or URL).



>>A 3D scene rendered by Autodesk Homestyler. All possible on a web browser with realistic textures and effects

Today if you are looking to create an application that will reach mobile, tablets, desktops, and perhaps even TVs, there is one "runtime" / platform you could consider developing for; and that is your browser. >

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JavaScript Alternatives

<Open web standards are about freedom and access, there is one freedom that open web developers are not afforded by the standards, and that is the choice of languages used for web development> **By Kshitij Sobti**

If you're a web developer, HTML, CSS and JavaScript are your bread and butter. While open standards are awesome, the very fact that they're standard, or, in other words, unchanging means that there will be those who love them and those who hate them.

Native developers are used to having a plethora of choices when it comes to development: Assembly, C, C++, C#, VisualBasic, Objective-C, Ada, Java, Python, Ruby, Lisp, Perl or, heck even JavaScript! Native developers are spoiled by choice, and all web developers have is JavaScript. Or do they?

While browsers don't support any scripting language other than JavaScript, web developers have found ways around this limitation to give them access to a growing number of languages. Recently, Google announced a JavaScript alternative called Dart that they'd been developing. Let's look at some alternatives to JavaScript.

Before we get there, ever wondered how such languages work if the browser doesn't understand them? Well, all these languages "compile" to JavaScript. So while you can code your application in any one of these languages using a preprocessing tool, whatever code you write will be converted to equivalent JavaScript. It is this "compiled" JavaScript that you will finally include in your web page so it can run in the browser.

It is important to understand that these languages don't add any new "features" to JavaScript. What you can do is still limited by the limitation of the browser and JavaScript, but how you code it will differ.

CoffeeScript

This is one of the more popular and active JavaScript alternatives. It is a favoured scripting language of the Ruby on Rails web development framework.

The CoffeeScript compiler is written in CoffeeScript itself, and is available as a package for Node.js. In fact, you don't even need to compile CoffeeScript code to JavaScript before running it in the browser. You can just include the compiler along with the CoffeeScript code to have the compilation performed in the browser itself. This is great for testing, but is something that obviously doesn't make sense in a production website.

CoffeeScript has been inspired by Ruby, Python and Haskell, so you will find borrowed features and syntax from those languages. The code sample is fairly reminiscent of the above languages for those familiar with them:

```
square = (n) -> i * i for i in [1..n]
document.write square 10
```

This code defines a function called square that returns an array containing the squares of the first 'n' numbers. After that we use that function to write the squares of the first 10 numbers to the page.

CoffeeScript code is much more compact and to the point, and so is the JavaScript code this generates — try for yourself, CoffeeScript is included in the DVD. CoffeeScript has numerous syntax improvements for working with classes, objects, arrays, loops and so much more. It is well supported, and the JavaScript it produces has equivalent, or sometimes even better, performance as hand-written JavaScript.

ClojureScript

Clojure (with a 'j') is a language that compiles to run on the JVM, so it can be considered an alternative to Java. ClojureScript is a subset of the Clojure language that can be compiled to JavaScript and run in the browser.

Do not confuse Clo(j)ure with Clo(s)ure, which are a set of tools by Google for optimising JavaScript. In fact, Google Closure tools are a big part of Clojure where they are used to optimize JavaScript produced by Clojure. Yes, it's a little confusing, even more so when you consider that Clojure is pronounced as "closure".

For those looking for a break from the usual curly braces and C-like syntax, ClojureScript will be a fresh breath of air. It is a dialect of List, and thus has a completely different syntax. Here, take a look at the same example, done in ClojureScript:

```
(ns example)
(defn ^:export square [n]
        (for [x (range n)]
                (* x x)))
(.write js/document
        (reduce str
                (interpose ","
                        (square 10)))
```

This too is defining a function called "square" that returns a list of all the squares of all numbers up to "n". The "interpose bit adds a comma between each number, and the reduce bit combines them as strings. The (.write js/document bit is calling the JavaScript "document.write" function.

*GWT, RubyJS and Pyjamas

>>GWT or Google Web Toolkit is a framework for developing client-side web applications using Java. It should be listed above however it is more than just a Java to JavaScript compiler. It provides an entire framework and toolkit, which includes a declarative UI coding language, a UI designer, widgets, etc. that call all be used in Java, but compile to JavaScript. In the process GWT also optimizes and minimizes your code.

RubyJS and Pyjamas are ports of GWT that work with the Ruby and Python languages respectively. So if you are interested in coding in Java, Python, or Ruby you should check out GWT, Pyjamas and RubyJS respectively.

The entire optimised code for this is around 2000 lines! The reason for this is that ClojureScript provides an entire framework that is working behind the scenes to improve the way JavaScript works, and unfortunately that framework isn't going to go away if you don't use it. In short, ClojureScript is for creating full-fledged web applications – not for "Hello World" examples—and that is where it will shine.

haXe

This language is more than just a JavaScript alternative. Instead, JavaScript is one of the outputting formats. Code written in haXe can be converted to source code (or bytecode) for Flash (for both AVM1, or Flash 6 to 8; and AVM2, Flash 9 onwards), Neko, PHP, ActionScript, JavaScript, C++, Java, and C#. Java and C# are still in development.

This essentially means that you could write your entire web application in haXe! From the server-side code (running as PHP, on the Neko VM or even C++), the client side JavaScript, the client-side Flash content, and even the iPhone app (in C++) – why not!

With code shared between server and client you can easily pass data from client to server as the same classes can be used on both side. Code can be shifted between client and server with ease before finding the perfect mix of client and server performance. Over and above the benefits of one language across platforms, haXe brings type checking to PHP and JavaScript (which lack this feature), a powerful package and class syntax and much more.

haXe will be familiar to those already know ActionScript / JavaScript as it is based on ECMAScript 4, at one time a successor for JavaScript, and the basis for ActionScript. So let's take a look at a sample, the same example again:

```
package;
import js.Dom
class Main {
 public static function main() {
  new Main();
  js.Lib.document.write(Main.square(10).join(", "));
 }
 public static function square(n : Int) : Array < Int > {
  var i : Int = 0;
  var result : Array < Int >  = new Array < Int > ();
  for (i in i...n) {
   result.push(i * i);
  }
  return result;
 }
}
```

The main function of the application class will be called automatically on launch. Here too, the code is rather too long (over 300 lines). However, with a full fledged application, it can be efficient.

Dart

Finally we come to Dart, the new JavaScript alternative introduced by Google. The fact that Google backs it, makes Dart quite important; not only because they created it, but because they want it to eventually become a language supported in all browsers – directly, without translation to JavaScript. It is a little ironic a Google employee proposed making the script tag's type="text/javascript" optional, because JavaScript was the only scripting language supported by browsers.

Dart adds a lot to JavaScript while keeping a similar syntax. A JavaScript developer will not find it difficult to understand Dart code or write it. The syntax and feature set of Dart seems to have been influenced by the need to make code easier to optimise. Dart makes it simpler to create web applications, rather than simple scripts.

Dart includes Classes and interfaces for more structures web applications, and an optional types that can help make the code easier to understand and optimise. Dart applications have a main() function that is executed to begin with. Dart also has a system of libraries that will allow easy reuse of code.

Currently the compiler for converting Dart code to JavaScript has to be built from source, as there is not prebuilt binary for any platform. However, a light Eclipse based IDE called "Dart Editor" is available that does the compilation for you.

Now let us take a look at the same code once again from a Dart perspective:

```
#import('dart : dom');
class Example {
 void run() {
  HTMLDocument doc = window.document;
  doc.write(square(10));
 }
 List < int > square(int n) {
  var result = new List < int > ();
  for (int i = 0; i < n; i++) {
   result.add(i * i);
  }
  return result;
 }
}
void main() {
 new Example().run();
}
```

This could obviously have been done without a class, but this can serve as an example. Now, if you were shocked that haXe produces a 300-line JavaScript, and Clojure produced 2000 lines of JavaScript, we hope you're sitting down now; because this above code translates to 167472 lines of JavaScript and weighs around 6MB! This code includes the JavaScript implementation of all of Dart's features and libraries. Dart is still in development and this is clearly very unoptimised code even if it is for the entire framework. Of course when / if it is supported in the browser you will need to only include the above code. Printing even the relevant bits of JavaScript here will be a waste of space, but you are free to try the above sample in the IDE to see the code it produces. >

Join us on Facebook at dvwx.in/dvwx-fb and post your comments.

*Opa

>>Opa is an alternative to the server and client stack of your web application. It's designed specifically for making web applications that will run on multiple clients, and servers and includes a programming language, a server and even a database.

To create a web application, you write code in Opa, which compiles to an application. That application now handles the server side (handling requests, accessing the database etc.) and client side (the user interface, etc) requests.

Both the code that has to run on the server, and the code that has to run on the client will be written as part of the same application, and Opa will automatically create the HTML-based interface with jQuery for interactivity. The part of your code that goes to the server and client is managed automatically!

>>"we invested a lot in cleaning up our APIs">>



>>**Dries Buytaert,** creator of Drupal, in an exclusive chat with devworx, on the underlying philosophy, and Drupal 8.

>> Drupal is a superior platform. But it's difficult to find good manpower. Any comments?

Drupal is often used for building pretty complex websites. It is, in a way, the necessary evil. In order to build these complex enterprise-level projects, you do need complexity. At the same time, what's also happening is that with such widespread adoption of Drupal, the demand (or adoption) is much higher than the supply of good resources. Part of it is complexity, because it is a complex system. But part of it is also the need for more trained personnel.

>> Are you open to the idea of having Drupal certification programmes?

Oh yes. I've always been open to the idea. But it's good only if it's done well. The best example is of Cisco. It actually means something to be Cisco certified!

>> Could you guide our readers to valuable learning resources?

At Acquia, my company, we conduct webinars that you could attend. As a customer, you get access to all sorts of training resources. Also there's Drupal.org, the Drupal website, again with a lot of resources.

>> What are the core shortcomings in Drupal 7 that are addressed in Drupal 8?

Interesting! There are many (smiles). We're always very critical about ourselves. One of the most significant criticism in Drupal 7 is increased complexity. So in Drupal 8, we invested a lot in cleaning up our APIs. We could do that because we break backwards compatibility. There are a lot of things. There is always a lot that needs to be improved.

Read the entire interview online at dvwx.in/dec-11-dries. Join us on Facebook at dvwx.in/dvwx-fb and comment.

*distro dose



Fedora 16 released

>>The Fedora community has announced the release of Fedora 16 with Gnome 3.2 and has dedicated to the memory of Dennis Ritchie. Download Fedora 16 at http://dvwx.in/dec-fedora



openSUSE 12.1

>>Try out the latest edition of openSUSE with an ownCloud account. To download openSUSE, go to: http://dvwx.in/dec-opensuse

*from the shelf

>> suggested reads, that you could consider buying, to augment your skills



Android Application Development <Price> ₹340

>>This is a natural complement to the Android documentation, and includes ready-to-run example code for implementing each feature mentioned.

http://dvwx.in/dec-11-bk1



Microsoft Excel 2010 Bible (with CD) <Price> ₹519

>>Microsoft Excel is a powerful tool. Written by Excel guru and Microsoft MVP John Walkenbach, this book has over 1,000 pages of techniques and tricks in it.

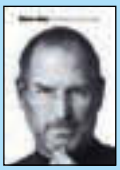
http://dvwx.in/dec-11-bk2



One Click <Price> ₹324

>>It has been said that if the internet had a CEO, it would be Amazon chief Jeff Bezos. Here's his story of how he built a succesful empire online. A must read.

http://dvwx.in/dec-11-bk3



Steve Jobs: The Exclusive Biography <Price> ₹479

>>In this exclusive biography that has been widely spoken about, Steve Jobs has shared details about his life with Walter Isaacson.

http://dvwx.in/dec-11-bk4

You code. You write as well!

>>We want to hear from you. If you enjoy code, and want to share interesting gems with the developer community, please write to us today. If you're innovative and above the crowd, we could have opportunities for you! You're only limited by your imagination. Write to us at: editor@devworx.in

Disclaimer

>>These book recommendations are purely suggestive. We have no allegiance with any publisher, service provider or reseller. Prices may vary depending upon several factors. Prices mentioned here are compiled at the time of going to print. **If you want to recommend an interesting book to the developer community, please write to us at editor@devworx.in**



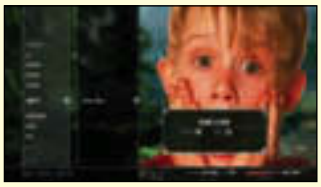
To stay updated with the latest news and features, join us on Facebook by scanning the QR code with your smartphone.

Prefer 140 characters? Follow us: @devworx.

worldview

OUR PICK OF THE BEST TECH ARTICLES FROM AROUND THE GLOBE

(MUST READS)



SKYRIM GREATEST GAME ON PC?

Keeping all the speculations and hype aside, we ask the question: "is Skyrim for PC really the best game ever?" Find out more about the game in this interesting article where the Skyrim universe and its level of detailing is teared down.

http://bit.ly/v2xcDu

RELEVANCE OF WIKIPEDIA

Why does Jimmy Wales stare down at you every now and then from a Wikipedia page? Get to know the real picture behind the donations of Wikipedia and its sister sites.

http://rww.to/rLv61l

WHY KINDLE FIRE SUCKS

Ever since the arrival of iPad, tablet manufacturers have been trying their level best to beat Apple at its own game. We've seen far too may tablets in the past two years including the Kindle Fire. Here are 12 reasons why it sucks.

http://zd.net/tjmmX4

iPHONES WITH AIRBAGS!

It seems like the next iteration of the iPhone would come with an airbag-like mechanism. A shock mount system would sit between the body and the display of the phone to protect the device when it falls down.

http://cnet.co/uBhXfN

SIRI VS TELLME

Siri has created quite a buzz since its launch on the iPhone 4S. Here's presenting Siri's clone should we say TellMe voice activated app by Microsoft.

http://tnw.co/v1r4Ld

(Wired Corner)

ARE YOU AN EARLY BIRD?



Do you happen to be one of those who can't wait to get their hands on early and new tech, mind you some of these might be technology still under development. Here are nine gadgets that will prove that you're a hardcore early adopter: **http://bit.ly/rwP5j6**



Save the GPS!
The future of the GPS is at stake, with plenty of enemies abound our artificial satellites. Brad Parkinson, the father of GPS shares his insights in this article over why the future of GPS looks grim.
http://bit.ly/u1vHZW



Faster than light
Sub-atomic particles able to fly through any matter better known as neutrinos seem to be beating light at its own game – speed. A team of scientists called The Opera Collaboration is currently experimenting with neutrinos.
http://bit.ly/swfBoD



Rise of the super soldier
Special ops commandos is one of the world's elitist fighting units. SOCOM which is the agency behind them is working on introducing special invisible equipment which would make them nearly indestructible.
http://bit.ly/skHQK9

SHORTS

EVOLUTION OF MICRO PROCESSOR



How did the micro processor come into being? From its earliest sightings to its use today in digital signages and ultrabooks. Here's an interesting infograph.
http://on.mash.to/sSpoux

JOBS, THE TWEAKER

Malcolm Gladwell, author of *Blink and Tipping Point*, gives us his take on the biography of Steve Jobs. According to him, Jobs was more of a Tweaker than an Innovator.
http://nyr.kr/vQsywZ

11 TECH SOUNDS THAT ARE GETTING EXTINCT

Here's presenting a host of sounds that you've probably never heard. Why, you ask? Because they're a dying species. Only a handful of them exist.
http://bit.ly/ujnuz4

DESTRUCTION OF MEDIA

This article looks into the fact why we share a love-hate relationship with the media. Why is it that we love to trash it and can't seem to live without it at the same time.



http://bit.ly/u8Zd9l

Barnes & Noble Nook Tablet

The best small tablet for reading books and magazines

- By Sascha Segan

PCMAG DIGITAL NETWORK
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The reader's tablet is back. The new Nook Tablet delivers the best color e-reading experience available, especially for magazines and for childrens' books. It's a better e-reader than the Amazon Kindle Fire ($199, 4 stars), our Editors' Choice for small tablets. But the Nook doesn't quite match the Fire on music, video or apps, and the Nook Color ($199, 4 stars) offers the same great e-reading experience for less money. Make no mistake, the Nook is a very good small tablet, but the Fire delivers a better all-around tablet experience, and the Nook Color offers better value as a color e-reader.

Physical Design and User Interface

Feeling a little more 'book-like' than the Amazon Kindle Fire, the Nook Tablet is significantly taller and slightly wider at 8.1 by 5.9 by 0.5 inches (HWD) thanks to its much bigger bezel, but it's lighter at 14.1 ounces compared with Amazon's 14.6. There's a standard 3.5-mm headphone jack, and a curious little loop in the bottom left corner, which serves as both a handle and a way to conceal the reader's MicroSD card slot, just like on the Nook Color. In fact the Nook Tablet and the Nook Color are almost identical save for the a slightly lighter-color metallic finish. The Tablet has physical Power button and volume controls on the side panels as well as a single, "N"-shaped home button at the bottom of the 7-inch, 1024-by-600 touch screen.

Barnes & Noble has made a big deal out of how its IPS LCD screen is less reflective than Amazon's, but after using both screens for long periods taking several photographs of each, I found I had to squint to tell the difference. It's there, but it's by no means pronounced enough to be a dealmaker. Both displays are much less readable in daylight than the e-ink screens on devices like the Amazon Kindle Touch ($149, 4 stars).

The Nook Tablet, like the Amazon Kindle Fire, runs a very highly customized version of Android 2.3 on a TI OMAP4, 1GHz dual-core processor. But the Nook's user interface looks nothing like Amazon's (or, for that matter, Android's.)

Rather than shelves, here you have three free home screens where you can plunk down large icons representing your favorite books, magazines, or apps. (No widgets; this isn't standard Android.) Along the bottom of the screen are your most recently used items in a scrollable list, along with some links to promotional screens plugging B&N's various stores, and its favorite music and video related apps. (You can hide those links.)

Press the Home button, and you'll get seven main options: Home, Library, Shop, Search, Apps, Web and Settings. Your Library contains, on separate panes, Books, Magazines, Newspapers, Apps, Kids, and My Stuff, a catch-all for any of your own music, video or document files you may store in the Nook's 1GB of user-accessible memory or on a MicroSD card up to 32GB. You can also create your own custom shelves within My Stuff to arrange books by topic, for instance.



Notice what's missing: Unlike on the Kindle Fire, the Nook lumps music and video under the catch-all of "Apps," and breaks out books, magazines, and newspapers more distinctly. That's actually on purpose, and it shows one of the major differences between the two tablets.

Barnes & Noble Is a Bookstore

Nobody beats Barnes & Noble when it comes to books. If childrens' books are going to be a

CUSTOMISE YOUR TECHNOLOGY

Want better productivity and faster browsing, then it's time to upgrade the technology you're surrounded with. For this, Lifehacker's quick guide to technology would come to your aid.
http://lifehac.kr/uXtqlp

HUMANS DON'T UNDERSTAND MODERN TECH

If you spend most of your time inside a web browser then chances are that you rely on your computer for pretty much everything. Here's an interesting article articulating this fact.
http://bit.ly/tDSycy

THE AGE OF UNSHARING

Don't we all just love sharing interesting stuff with our audiences on social networks? With so much information and data at our disposal, things might turn the other way around. At least the author of this article thinks so.
http://tcrn.ch/sckARq

QUESTION OF SUCCESSION

Kevin Rollins who served as a chief executive of Dell was replaced by the company's founder Michael Dell. Is it true that founders who stick for too long with the company tend to flush out new blood? Find out in this article.
http://nyti.ms/u45x0G

big part of your tablet experience, this is your tablet. Nook books for kids are full of animation and interactivity. They often offer read-along audio versions as well as the ability to record your own voice, if you want to read a distant child a bedtime story. (Recording your own voice is exclusive to the Tablet; it isn't on the Nook Color or the Kindle Fire.)

Nook magazines flip pages more smoothly than the Kindle, and when you double-tap on articles in the magazine page view, the text pops out in an attractive scrolling column. Magazines and books—especially cookbooks, from what I saw—can also incorporate embedded audio and video.

Compared with these, the Kindle's childrens' books look like cheap flatbed scans, its cookbooks lack panache, and its magazines look awkward.

The Nook's whole UI encourages you to keep reading. On the home page, the top status line lets you jump back to the most recent book you were in. A pop-down menu shows your most recently read books and magazines. An omnipresent small book icon at the bottom immediately reopens your book to where you left off.

Adult books are better than on the Kindle too, mostly through an interface with fewer mysterious icons and more clearly explained options. I also greatly prefer the Nook's accounting of pages and chapters over the Kindle's weird, disconnected "locations."

Barnes & Noble enhances the reading experience with its 700 brick-and-mortar stores, letting you read anything you want for an hour on the in-store Wi-Fi network, letting you browse physical magazines and tomes before buying them electronically, and offering up its staff to suggest books. Amazon has nothing to compete with that.

The one area the Kindle triumphs is in comics. The Nook has a limited selection of comics, and you pinch to zoom. The Kindle will have Comixology as well as exclusive DC comics, double-tapping lets you flip through specific panels, and you can load a third-party comic reader if you have CBR-format comic files. That's a much broader comics experience.

... But It's Just a Bookstore

Barnes & Noble is a bookstore. It isn't a music store, or a video store, or an app store. And that's where the Nook Color falls short.

Tapping on the music and video options just brings up a list of preferred third-party apps. There's no tightly integrated music or video store like on the Kindle or the iPad; in fact, right now there's no way to legally download videos to the device at all. (B&N says a downloadable video service is coming next year.)

You can stream videos from Netflix and Hulu Plus, and play music from Pandora and Rhapsody. This all functions just fine. But the Kindle has even better streaming options, plus downloadable music and video, and the Kindle's speakers are louder; the Nook Tablet's speakers can sound anemic at times.

The Nook Tablet also falls way short on apps. Sure, it has an app store, but you can count the number of apps in some categories on two hands; this is much, much smaller than Amazon's app store, which is, in turn, smaller than the Android Market. And unlike on the Kindle, Barnes & Noble is flat-out opposed to users running apps not available from its store. There's a workaround, but it's kludgier than sideloading on the Kindle, and Barnes & Noble could easily shut it down with a software update.

Barnes & Noble says it currently has more than a thousand apps, with a focus on games and childrens' apps, and it's adding hundreds each week. Fashion, cooking, travel, and health apps will especially ramp up over the next few months, the company said. But because Barnes & Noble is so intently curating its store, it looks like there will just be less of a selection than Amazon has now, and over time.

The Nook store has some prominent, top-line apps, but its list is extremely shallow. While you can find Evernote, Pandora, Netflix, Hulu, Bejweled, Flight Control and Angry Birds in there, I could only find 7 of 38 tablet-relevant top apps from our Top 50 Android Apps list. There's no IMDB, no Slacker, no Yelp and no Cut the Rope, for instance. It's a high-quality selection to be sure, but a very tight one.

You can load your own content if you have a Windows PC (there's no Mac compatibility), but only 1GB of the Nook's internal 16GB is available for files from your PC. (Another 12GB is available for files downloaded by apps on the device.) The answer: pick up a MicroSD card and slip it into the Nook's convenient slot (something you won't find on the Kindle Fire). You can use the whole card, up to 32GB, for your own data.

The Nook Tablet played our H.264 and MPEG4 videos at up to 1080p HD resolution, but no other video formats. Music played in AAC or MP3 formats either through wired headphones or through the tablet's somewhat anemic speaker.

Battery life, at 4 hours, 22 minutes of video playback time, was slightly shorter than the Kindle Fire, which scored closer to 5 hours, and is on the low side for a 7-inch tablet.

Networking, Web and Email

Like the Kindle Fire, the Nook is a Wi-Fi only tablet. Also like the Kindle Fire, the Nook connects to 802.11b/g/n Wi-Fi networks, but only on the 2.4GHz frequency band. The Nook comes with the standard Android 2.3 Web browser, which supports Flash, along with a POP/IMAP email program.

Read the rest of the article here:
http://bit.ly/vDc7uj

SECRET TO LIFE

Learn the secret to success and life itself by Photoshop guru Russel Preston Brown in this Digit TV exclu-



sive video. The video was shot during the Adobe MAX 2011 event. Find the video in this month's DVDs
http://bit.ly/uMqQi1

(QR Code)

For a list of all the links from this section head over to
http://linkbun.ch/00c4
or scan the QR code above with your mobile device

(PRODUCT LAUNCHES)

ASUS ZENBOOK UX31



ASUS announced its latest line of ultrabooks. Featuring 2nd gen i7 processors, 4GB of RAM, a 256GB SSD and a chiclet-style keyboard, all this in a slim 0.11-inch thick chassis. This premium device will retail at approximately ₹89,900 in the Indian market.

KINDLE FIRE



Amazon's "iPad killer" tablet has hit the shelves, it sports Android 2.3 OS and runs a dual-core 1000MHz processor with 8 GB storage and 512 MB RAM. The dimension of the tablet is 7 inches with a 1024 x 600 pixel resolution. Approx. price is ₹15,000.

SAMSUNG GALAXY NOTE



Sporting a super AMOLED display, the Galaxy Note is a brick-sized phone from the Samsung stable. The phone is packed with features such as 8 MP rear and 2 MP front camera and 16 GB of in-built memory. Priced at approx. ₹35,000.

WORD JUMBLE

WORDJUMBLE

ABSOLUTE TIMEPASS

A	G	H	V	V	M	G	M	A	N	G	O	D	W	N
H	V	J	Y	K	A	M	I	N	I	H	C	A	M	O
F	K	G	V	C	Q	Q	T	F	O	S	I	B	U	L
I	R	E	D	N	I	F	E	G	N	A	R	C	V	A
D	R	X	H	T	R	A	N	S	D	U	C	E	R	T
E	V	J	P	L	Y	Q	U	F	W	N	L	H	M	E
L	C	A	B	I	N	E	T	G	X	O	O	A	L	N
I	I	A	M	O	L	E	D	N	M	U	D	I	B	C
T	F	O	L	E	M	A	G	E	G	E	N	N	U	Y
Y	U	R	F	N	C	T	J	C	M	K	N	R	I	L
C	R	E	N	O	H	P	T	R	A	M	S	T	A	W
V	M	A	E	R	T	S	S	H	J	M	E	P	E	S
K	O	O	B	E	T	O	N	R	U	Q	U	D	P	D
E	E	M	M	O	C	L	A	U	Q	R	U	N	R	W
X	I	T	G	C	R	E	Z	O	D	L	L	U	B	I

There are 24 words in this word jumble. Try to find all of them in under ten minutes. Difficulty Level 3 (5 being the toughest)

Top 3 YouTube Picks

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



Unleash your fingers 1:47
This Samsung Galaxy S2 ad is a well-executed concept using "dancing hands".
http://bit.ly/uT3DaP



I Met the Walrus 05:15
Brilliant piece of animation featuring voice of John Lennon in an interview conducted by Jerry Levitan in 1969.
http://bit.ly/veHF58



Splitscreen: A love story 2:25
Winner of the Nokia shorts 2011 Award this short film was made on a Nokia N8.
http://bit.ly/vCUfOF



THE NEW ALPHABET

We all know our ABCD, but not like this. This Collector's Edition, to continue our celebration of being (over) a decade old, we decided it was time to put a stake in the ground. Of all the millions of products, of all the people who contributed to those same products, or all the tech companies and technologies, of all the cultures that emerged and of all the major events happening around the world – in the past decade that Digit has existed – which ones would we choose to signify a letter of the alphabet? Bringing this vast list down to a mere 26 items would be impossible, but we did segregate them all into categories, and after days of heated debates, arrived at Digit's A to Z of technology. We've also colour coded the alphabets in a simple RGB (red, gren, blue) format, to segregate our picks into Technologies and Products, Culture and Events, and finally, People and Companies. We know no one is going to agree 100 per cent with our picks, but that's OK, neither could any of us. We would love to get your feedback and your thoughts about this list though, so make sure to write in to editor@thinkdigit.com.

Technologies and Products

People and Companies

Culture and Events

A-Z of Tech

Mobility 102
Gaming 108
Applications 114
PC Software 118
Home Entertainment 122
The Web 126
PC Hardware 130



Keitai Culture

You must have heard the term "Keitai culture" numerous times used in reference to Japan. In Japanese, "Keitai denwa" literally means "portable phone" and because of the extent to



which the Japanese use their mobile phones, it has given rise to a "mobile phone culture" or "Keitai culture". Mobile phones have become a ubiquitous part of not just the Japanese culture, but prety much everywhere on earth! Even here in India, we're slowly going the Japanese way, and for lack of an Indian word





just yet, developing our own Keitai culture. Much like the Japanese, we're also connected to our phones 24x7, browsing on the go. We've even started customising our phones with colourful covers, stickers, etc. In fact, you hardly see youth talking to each other anymore – instead you find their thumbs going 300 characters a minute!



Jobs, Steve

If I is for the iPhone, then the "J" has to be the man behind the iPhone, iPad, iPod – Steven Paul Jobs. A man who could get on the stage and absolutely convince you that his product is the best you could get. The keynote speeches Jobs delivers are simply a treat to listen to – those who want to learn the art



of presentation, the keynotes are a must watch. Steve Jobs possesses the "Reality Distortion Field" – the term Apple engineer Burrell Smith used to describe Steve's charisma and his ability to convince you of just about anything. Of course, there are also hundreds of Apple employees behind all Apple's products, but we have to feature the man whose vision they were all following, and the man largely credited for bringing Apple back from the brink of bankruptcy to now the biggest tech company in the world! R.I.P. Steve.



Android

If we had made this same list last year, A would most certainly be "Apple", however, the sheer growing popularity of Google's Android has made it possible for every single person on this planet to hold a smartphone in his hand (whether said smartness of phones is ever utilised is a question that still remains unanswered). Google making Android "Open Source" opened the smartphone flood gates as many



manufacturers started bringing their version of smartphones, and now you get them for as low as 7k. We only hope that Google doesn't get carried away with the acquisition of Motorola mobile and lets Android remain "Open Source".



Peter Chou

Peter Chou is one of the three founders of HTC. He has served HTC Corporation as the Chief Executive Officer and President since April 30, 2004. It was under his leadership that HTC launched its first Android phone and has now established itself as one of the leading players in the mobile and tablet category.





Rooting

We give you three reasons why you should root your Android device:

1.) Just because you can: you have a beast...unleash it.

2.)While most devices have a lot of potential, manufacturers limit the devices a little. Root it and the full power is at your



command – overclock, remove unwanted OEM customisations, and improve the performance of your device drastically.

3.) Installing unavailable options and features: You can get Wi-Fi-Bluetooth tethering, and install all the features you wanted but were not available. You can add custom keyboards and take advantage of a better keyboard for the typing experience. Of course, remember that rooting voids warranty. We hold no responsibilities if you brick or damage your mobile device in any way. That still won't stop you, will it?

200,000,000

Android powered gadgets just broke the 200 million barrier. In was only in May that the number of Android powered gadgets crossed the 100 million mark but with over 550,000 android devices getting activated each day, this doesn't come as a surprise to anyone.

Xperia Play

It makes its way to our list for being the first Playstation certified mobile device that runs on Android 2.3 Gingerbread. The Xperia Play has opened a whole new dimension for gaming on mobile phone device. What makes it different is it has managed to infuse the Sony Playstation PSP with itself, which means you can play games like you would on a PSP. It features a 1GHz Qualcomm Scorpion processor and the Adreno 205 GPU, using which it delivers smooth graphics, and a slide-out panel with full-fledged gaming pad. The 4-inch display, which is the LED backlit LCD type - delivers excellent display with vivid colours is nice to play on. However the UI has its share of stutters and slow moments.



Texting

With more IM apps coming up and the cheap texting rates, recent reports show that people prefer texting over calling. But why this change? A lot of psychological factors drive why texting has become the more dominant form of communication apart from the fact that it's cheaper. There are the obvious few advantages of texting like - it allows for asynchronous interaction and aids discrete conversations, allows you to say things which otherwise you might not say. When you text someone you don't give away information relating to your whereabouts, which otherwise be evident in a phone call from the background noise; texting is way of deception. Moreover, texting allows you to set the tone and pace of the interaction. Texting allows the user to pin down every single thought of his, which may or may not be possible in a phone call as a lot external factors affect it. This texting culture has its disadvantages too - it has plagued the young minds with the text language i.e. Using of acronyms, which is slowly becoming the dominant language in all walks of their life. It sure is hell as annoying when people use text language in mails.



Vendetta

One of the most interesting battles is happening right here in the mobile industry. You guessed it right.. Patent Wars. Apple and Samsung have been the center of attraction even though there are other companies in the battle. And we said interesting because, both Apple and Samsung depend upon each other and if the relationship between the two were to go bad, both are going suffer heavy losses. While searching for the all the events that unfolded right from the inception of the war, we came across two infographics that really manage to sum up the entire war so far. Here have a look - 1.)http://goo.gl/EUzOk 2.)http://goo.gl/duHI8

Swype

There existed basically just three kinds of keyboard layout on a mobile device viz. QWERTY, Multi-tap, SureType, but in the past few years we have seen many new input methods making their way in to mobile devices, especially for the touchscreen devices. Swype is one such example. It is still an on-screen QWERTY keyboard, but what's different here is, it lets you type by just sliding your finger over alphabets with requiring you to only lift your finger after a word. If you are a texting freak, then this keyboard is your nirvana.



Windows Phone

When Windows phone was launched, it lacked many important features when compared to the likes to iOS and Android. But with the recent Mango update, slowly but surely it is emerging as one of the more promising mobile platforms around. With Mango, Microsoft seems to have fixed a lot of the features it lacked. In the otherwise boring category filled with Android, iOS and to an extent Blackberry phones with occasional appearances from Symbian, the entry of Windows phone comes as a refreshing experience. However, it remains to be seen whether Microsoft can leverage its new found warrior.



Yikes

Yikes! I bricked my phone! The smarter phones get, the more common errors get when we fiddle with them. Not only does messing with custom firmwares, OSes and rooting sometimes throw up problems, but the fact that phones have become flimsy and tiny doesn't help either. The clumsy amongst us have found this out the hard way... Thankfully, we're seeing more metal in the bodies of new phones – even if it is more for heat dissipation than anything else, because of the more powerful CPUs – at least they don't smash as easily as before when you drop them.

₹22,500

₹22,500 is the asking price for refurbished iPhone4 units. This is a great news for those who have been waiting for the iPhone4 prices to go down. While people eagerly await for Apple iPhone 4S to be available in India, this offer in the meantime is worth considering. What's more, reports suggests that Apple might also offer a one-year warranty on these units.

2012

amazon.com

2012, the year in which Amazon will enter the Indian market. Amazon reportedly has been having talks with Flipkart.com, LetsBuy.com and Excluively.in. Amazon is currently building a team of 200+ people, which will be headed by Madhu M. Amazon is also planning to establish a warehouse in India's financial capital, Mumbai.

Flash on mobiles



Adobe just announced that it will be killing the Flash Player for Android and the BlackBerry Playbook in favour of HTML 5, while it will still continue to support AIR. A year and half ago Steve Jobs in his open letter explained why Apple doesn't support Flash. It is very evident why Adobe is making this move, HTML 5 is way better in terms of providing secure content and not harsh on battery life, thus making for a better mobile experience. Of course, using AIR, people will still get all the apps they need from the Adobe platform, and it's mainly streaming video on web pages that will be affected – and honestly it's just been easier to stream video in non-Flash format to mobile devices thus anyway...

LiMo

THE LINUX FOUNDATION

(LiMo) Linux Mobile Foundation, is an non-profit organisation working towards providing a completely open Linux-based operating system for mobile devices. 'MeeGo', that was seen running on Nokia N9, is one of the efforts of LiMo. It was along with Intel and Nokia, that LiMo made a joint effort to build MeeGo. Apart from Intel and Nokia, Aminocom and Novell also played an important part in the MeeGo project. However, on 27th September, 2011 an Intel employee announced their collaboration with Samsung along with LiMo to replace MeeGo with Tizen. Tizen is reportedly said to be launched in 2012. We can't wait to see what happens when the mobile industry gets a true open-source operating system.

E5 Nokia



Why choose the Nokia E5 in the AtoZ of mobility? The reason is, it recently became the world record holder of running multiple apps at the sametime. The Nokia E5 managed to run an unbelievable 74 apps at the same time, whereas the previous record holder the Samsung Omnia HD had managed to run only 62 apps. What this signifies is the beginning of the race to multitask on your phone, which is the ascension of the humble mobile as the main computing device for the world.

Mobile World Congress

MOBILE WORLD CONGRESS
Barcelona | 27 February – 1 March 2012

This is paradise for all you mobile device lovers out there. Mobile World Congress, a yearly event that acts as the platform for world's largest exhibition for the mobile industry and also comprises of conferences featuring prominent Chief Executives from across the world and from all fields of the industry. The 2011 MWC took place in Barcelona, Spain, which saw a number of popular products such as Samsung Galaxy S II, HTC Flyer, Galaxy TAB 10.1 being showcased apart from a exciting lineup of speakers. The Mobile World Congress 2012 will also be held in Barcelona, Spain from February 27 to March 1, 2012. Go to www.mobileworldcongress.com to know more about the most important mobile event.

Huawei

Huawei was founded in 1988 by Ren Zhengfei and today is the second largest mobile telecommunication infrastructure equipment maker in the work. Huawei came to India in the year 1999, when they set up the first R&D center in India at Bangalore. It provided direct employment to 6,000 people. Huawei has tied up with Indian operators like Bharti Airtel, Vodafone, Reliance, Aircel to provide telecom solutions. Huawei has played a contributing role in the growth of the Indian telecom industry. It currently serves 45 of the world's 50 largest telecoms operators, while its products and services are deployed in more than 140 countries.

HUAWEI

iPhone



I could not stand for anything else – love it or hate it, you cannot simply ignore the fact that the iPhone completely changed what we thought of mobile phones. The iPhone set a high-standard for the user experience and simplicity and four years later the competition is still catching up with what it has to offer. Had it not been for the iPhone, we possibly wouldn't have Android. Although it is perhaps nothing more than an iPod touch with the ability to call, it's still the most popular selling mobile device. The iPhone is not the perfect device, it has its share of drawbacks, but thanks to great marketing and even better product design, the world cannot get enough of it.

Near Field Communication



Bump! Tap! Exchange data and more. The reason NFC has caught our eye is because of the endless possibilities this technology holds. It lets you exchange data between devices in close proximity to each other, be it sharing files or business cards, starting a multiplayer game session, can be used as an ID card, making payments , etc. Smartphones makers have started manufacturing mobile devices with NFC chips as a standard now and it is only a matter of time before we find ourselves using it for all sorts of things. The process of initiating a connection with another device takes a mere 0.1 seconds compared to around 6 secs with Bluetooth and you can expect speeds of upto 424 kbps. Plus it's cool to use!

Oooh!



Recession? What recession? Thankfully, there are enough and more companies that continue to make devices that stoke your tech desires and make you go, "Ooh, I want!". In all honesty, our Droolmaal section depends heavily on these manufacturers, and we wouldn't have it any other way. Of course, only the richest of the rich can really afford these, or many of them are just concept devices, or even just crazy works of art – made to just show off a company's capabilities. Do we care? Of course not. It's the aspirations that we all have to own devices from Vertu, Stuart Hughes and the rest that make tech interesting, and also make other manufacturers offer even more at our budgets.

Quad-core



Dual-core chips are a thing of the past, it's now time for Quad-core action. If you needed any more proof that the core wars have officially come to the mobile segment, ASUS has already unveiled the first quad-core tablet running a Tegra 3 processor. While, the ASUS Eee Pad Transformer Prime will be the first quad-core tablet, and the HTC Edge is touted to be the first quad-core smartphone to hit markets. Just like in the desktop space, more cores not only means more performance, but also optimised CPU loads, and as a result, better battery life. Plus, it's always super-cool to have a quad-core portable device. If the snappier performance, more fluid user-interface, flawless 1080p playback, 3D gaming and the likes aren't pull enough, you should soon see vanity stickers on phones and tablets – much like the vanity dual core, quad-core, six-core, Intel Inside, etc. stickers we sporte on our PC cabinets.

However, don't fall for the hype just yet, especially if you already have a dual-core phone. It would be wise to wait for better versions of these CPUs a year down the line, and also for apps that are written specifically for four (or more) cores..



1300

1,300 foot drop is what iPad survived with the G-Form case. Even after falling from such a height, the iPad still continued to play a video. We aren't kidding, watch it yoursel at http://goo.gl/vyCgq

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Camera

It was just around a decade back that we saw the first mobile phone with a camera module - the Sharp J-SH04. Do you want to take a guess at how many pixels it encompassed? It had



110,000 - pixels, for those who aren't laughing, that's a mere 0.1 MP. However, not long after this, the mobile industry went ablaze with the craze for camera phones. From selling 3 million units in 2001, the industry saw the sale of 500 million units in 2006. In fact, the manufacturers then were coming up with series of dedicated camera phones, few of the notable ones were from the K-series phones by Sony Ericsson. Apart from launching dedicated camera phones, the fight for encompassing higher mega-pixels also took off around the same time. From 0.1 to 0.3 , and then as high as 12.0 - the mega-pixel war still rages – albeit not with as much fervour as before. Today, it's all about pixels still, but instead of still images, it's more about video quality. Thanks to TV manufacturers spending all the big bucks on advertising and making "HD" a household phrase, phone manufacturers now just flaunt their device's ability to shoot HD videos as a USP. All of us now expect, at a minimum, to have one converged device that is a phone, digital camera and camcorder all rolled into one – only if it also computes is it considered a bonus!

40,000

Windows Phone market place now holds more than 40,000 apps

Just a year after Windows Phone was launched, the market place now is home for more than 40,000 apps. While the Apple App Store offers more than 5 lakh apps and the Android market place offering more than 3 lakh apps, Windows Phone still has a long long way to go. But the rate at which apps are being developed for the Windows platform it wont be surprising if it crosses the 50k mark by the end of 2011 or by Jaunary 2012 end; as of now 165 apps are being added every day.

Gorilla Glass

Manufactured by Corning, Gorilla Glass is an alkali-aluminosilicate thin sheet glass, which is specifically developed to be thin, light and resistant to damage. This makes it a perfect choice for the plethora of touch-screen mobile devices. There are many videos on the web that demonstrate the extent to which the Gorilla Glass can take a beating. It was a project that started in 2006 and as of today it used in as much as 20 per cent of all mobile handsets. Thank God someone is making these devices more sturdy. Watch the video at http://goo.gl/pPdH2



BlackBerry

If it's Business it's BlackBerry, no matter anyone says, BlackBerry devices are still is the favourite toy for suited men – despite BlackBerry (RIM) themselves trying to break the mold with their own ads. With about 70 million subscribers (as of October 2011), it's obvious that RIM is still a force to be reckoned with. It also helps that a lot of Gen-Y have started seeing BBM as the best messaging solution out there – which it actually is. Whether you're a 'Blackberry Boy', or a CEO, especially in India, where BlackBerry plans have become even cheaper than ever before – RIM and it's BlackBerry devices are surely here to stay.

Dont' you hold me like that

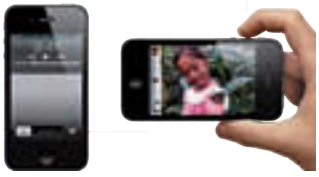
'Just avoid holding it in that way', was Steve Jobs infamous response when the iPhone 4 struggled with reception issues – better known as the Death Grip. The HTC Sensation was another smartphone that faced a similar issue. It's baffling how tech giants could make such mistakes when designing their flagship phones. Perhaps it's because the pressure of having to release updated models in a hurry, or the fact that if one doesn't the competition surely will that causes such massive



oversights. Whatever the reasons, be prepared for more such events in the future, and we'll be only too happy to report them to you, as and when they happen.

User Experience

From simply packing in features, manufacturers are now paying attention to the nuances of user experience. Small changes such as well thought out placement of physical keys



on the device, to letting you access the camera and apps right from the lockscreen, etc, are much more important today than ever before, and billions wait to be made for those who get it right!

Zzzzz zzzzzzz

Without a battery, all you can do with a phone is throw it at someone in anger, or use it to defend yourself, and even that will be unsuccessful, given that the darn things are so dainty and light these days. So what's happening in battery research then? Wads of cash are being spent in this direction, but we seem to have hit physical and chemical limits, and it's pretty much just nap time for anyone trying to find something exciting here... come on nanotechnology, or something...give us our 1 week battery, we beg you!



SOCIAL GAMING MARKET GROWING STRONG IN INDIA



ASHISH KHORIA
COUNTRY MANAGER
MOL

MOL AccessPortal Pvt. Ltd. (MOL India), Asia's leading payment service providers for online games, virtual worlds and social networks is experiencing huge growth in the social gaming market of India.

Social gaming, a relatively new phenomenon in India, is a concept that promotes social networking via online games. Already a popular culture in many parts of the world, social gaming has seen increased popularity among the Indian community. By including local nuances into the gaming environment, most of the social games are becoming more realistic as they represent the users' daily endeavours. These games not only help to bring the communities closer, the real-time rewards further entice users' participation.

"Over 500 million people worldwide play social games and in India alone, more than 10 million or over 50 per cent of India's Facebook users play social games," says Mr. Ashish Khoria, Country Manager of MOL India.

Today, users in India are investing more time and money on online games. Many users play free social games like 'Farmville' and 'Pet Society'. Spending real money to enhance the gaming experience is growing.

Ganesh Kumar Bangah, CEO of MOL says, "The audience and revenue growth forecast is tremendous and this presents an opportunity for marketers to promote their brands through social games. The user growth we are witnessing continues to increase beyond expectations. This is really a good time for companies to explore social gaming initiatives in India".

ABOUT MOL ACCESPORTAL PVT. LTD.

MOL Money Online

MOL AccessPortal (MOL) is part of the MOL Global Group, one of Asia's leading payment service providers. MOL handles over 60 million transactions annually and leverages on a network of more than 600,000 physical and online payment collection points across 80 countries. It is also linked online to 88 banks in 9 countries worldwide. MOL INDIA is one of the biggest Re-sellers of Social & MMOG Game Credits dedicated to Gaming Industry. For more information on MOL, visit www.mol.com

Advertorial

Havok

Whenever you blowup an enemy to bits or kick someone's a$$ from here to kingdom come, chances are it looks realistic because of the Havok engine. Some of the best in game physics in some of the best games ever created have run on this ubiquitous physics engine. The collisions, ragdoll effects and scatter trajectories rendered by the engine make games ultra realistic. *Biosbock 2*, *F.E.A.R. 2*, *Half-life 2*, *The Witcher 2* and many more on the A-list of gaming implement the Havok engine. The best part is that it's cross platform, also supporting Xbox 360, PS variants Linux, Mac and recently even Android.

John Carmack

What do *Dangerous Dave*, *Quake*, *Doom*, id and Apogee have in common? Apart from being etched in the memory of almost every gamer, what they have in common is John Carmack. The legendary game programmer and the co-founder of id Software has had a strong hand in shaping the gaming industry from its very beginnings. He developed several techniques – binary space partitioning, surface caching, and mega-textures, which gave each of his games a never before seen visual appeal. He's also an open source geek, having released the source code of Quake for Linux very early on.



120,000

Is the number of people that the American videogame industry employs either directly or indirectly. Of these the people employed directly have an average salary of $90,000 and together they generate or $25 billion in annual revenue.

God of War

Arguably one of the best games ever in the console space, Kratos redefined a$$ kicking. Heck, some would go so far as to call it the best game ever. So what if it turns mythology on it's head so much to make historians roll over in their graves? The game gave us some of the best and never before experienced gruesome thrills in any hack-n-slash. Even when it debuted on the PSP, *God of War* was the first game to stretch the device to it's absolute breaking point. For a tile like GoW, Sony let developers go beyond the 222MHz cap, stretching the PSP to its full potential of 333 MHz.



Quake III

Yes it's obvious, but what did you expect? We've been obsessed with the game for the past 9 years! Even today every machine at Digit has *Quake III* installed and is evoked at every issue closing. In fact, just before writing this piece a fierce one-on-one, instagib death match in DM17 ended with a sore of 115-87. Anyhoo, *QIII* gave us so many things – strafe jumping, rocket jumping, rocket prediction, the railgun (to use on human players)! Nuff said.



TGS

Thank God it's Sunday? Nope. Tokyo Game Show! A place that is part fantasy and part reality. A place where every gamer's wildest dreams come true. OK. We are exaggerating, but TGS is surely the place to be if you're a gamer. Like Gamescom, you have the who's who of gaming showcasing products, letting visitors try out never-seen-before tech and of course you have hundreds of arcade games lined up, hot booth babes dressed as your favourite game characters. There's more: a dedicated mobile gaming area, kid's area and an enclosure for careers in gaming.

Xbox

It's quite understandable if the Xbox brand name doesn't bring to mind images of grandeur. But the console does have several industry firsts to its credit. At a time when the realm of HD or High Definition had not yet been breached, Xbox 360 showed its early adopters what it was like to experience graphics in HD. We're not saying great graphics, just HD. Way before this achievement, Xbox debuted its Xbox live service and gave console users a taste of what PC gamers were enjoying for some time till then.



l33t

If you don't want to be called a n00b and get pwn3d, you need to level up to be l33t. The term Leet evolved from the word elite and is now used to describe exceptionally skilled gamers and hackers. The writing style developed as an esoteric form made up of ASCII characters and errors that happen while frantically chatting during intense multiplayer sessions. Now it's almost a subculture that alienates non-gamers.



Rush em n00bs

The blitzkrieg of the gaming world, this is a strategy that involves barging in on your opponent with all your forces



and allies. An "all-in" in terms of RTS games, this is a very risky manoeuvre which can result in your untimely death if not handled correctly. It is the equivalent of putting all your eggs into one basket and throwing it at an enemy's head in the hopes of killing him! You will end up with smashed eggs, but with enough eggs in the basket, you just might end up killing him! Shock and awe. Overwhelm and destroy..

BYOC

Popularly known as LAN Parties, the Bring Your Own Comp culture sees a large number of gaming geeks converge on a venue with their own gaming gear for extended sessions of multiplayer gaming. Gaming



enthusiasts bring portable machines, huge custom rigs and gaming peripherals. The trends has become so popular that case manufacturers have even come up with easy carrying handles and grips on their cases; even locks to protect precious innards from thieving hands. DreamHack the world's largest BYOC party had 13,292 machines connected to the LAN. Gamers play, abuse each other, show off their gear, OD on energy drinks, bust their bladders, and don't sleep for days on end. Ahh youth gone wild.

Unreal Engine

An important milestone in the evolution of gaming, the Unreal Engine forever changed the way games – most notably first person shooters – would look. The Engine was used to create America's Army, an ultra-realistic shooting simulation / recruiting tool used by the military. What other proof can there be of the realism offered by games developed in the Unreal Engine? And yet the best feature of this engine is it's omnipresent portability. It runs on virtually all conceivable platforms including Linux, Mac, Flash Player and Android. Some titles to quietly implement the Unreal Engine include games as diverse as *BioShock*, *Gears of War 2*, and *Batman: Arkham Asylum*.

Kojima, Hideo



When this man says he's making an announcement, the whole gaming world comes to a standstill. Why? Quite simply Hideo Kojima was the force behind the immensely popular Metal Gear series. As a game director he has been featured at the top of several "influential people of gaming" lists throughout his career. He has even received two Lifetime Achievement awards for his contribution to gaming. Kojima's focus on stealth and the art of storytelling in games is what sets him apart. He's legendary for his use of multiple-camera angles in cut scenes, non-linear story lines, and of course having a very strong story that immerses the gamer ever so completely.

Y do we game?

The question is almost as important as Y we couldn't come up with a proper topic to write under Y. But that apart, this in itself is worth pondering about. With gaming becoming so addictive over the years, the day won't be far when we'd require support groups like Gamer's Anonymous to be formed. Y do we have this compulsion to kick ass? Y this proclivity for exploring virtual playgrounds? The answers lie deep rooted in the human psyche. Some play to overcome challenges. Some play to feel like god. Some like to compete, while some are psychotic and if not given this outlet they'd probably end up chainsawing their families. So you see gaming serves a social purpose too.

Meier, Sid



If strategy and particularly 4x (explore, expand, exploit, and exterminate) is what helps you get your game on, Sid Meier is your god. Among other titles, he's the creator of Railroad Tycoon and the immensely popular Civilization series. Apart from strategy Sid has several Flight Simulation games to his credit at the very outset of his career. Currently he is the Director of Creative Development at Firaxis, his own company and continues to be a guiding light to budding gamers everywhere.

33.6 per cent

The share of Strategy games in the total number of game units sold in the United States. Quite unexpected isn't it? One would've easily assumed it would be first person shooters to dominate, and yet FPS comes a distant second with 9.7%.



iGamer

Ok there's no such thing as iGamer, we've made it up. But what else would you call this whole new breed of gamers who have emerged thanks to the iOS platform? The portable gaming industry was initially dominated by Gameboys, Nintendo's DS, PSP and the ilk. But with powerful hardware coming in phones developers soon realised that phones and tablets like the iPhone and iPad are very viable gaming devices. Utilising hardware such as gyroscopes these games provided gamers with newer experiences. Besides, getting your hands on new games was simply a download away.

41

Is the average age of the most frequent game purchaser according to a 2011 report published by the Entertainment Software Association. Of the most frequent game purchasers, 52% are male and 48% are, hold your breath... female! Women age 18 or older represent a significantly greater portion of the game-playing population (37%) than boys aged 17 or younger (13%)



Ongamenet

No it's not some weird Japanese PrOn. Try to break it up and pronounce it; "On Game Net". That's it. OGN is a TV channel in Korea that shows StarCraft matches all the time. Well maybe not all the time, but having a channel dedicated to showcasing videogame matches is quite something. And showcasing just StarCraft is downright insane and freakin cool! Man those crazy Koreans; now all we need is a visa!

FPS

Looking at the world through the aiming reticle of an assault rifle has been, and will always be every young boy's waking dream. Right from Wolfenstein 3D, the First Person Shooter genre became a rage and later on spawned an entire generation of gamers who lived for frags. Every year we see several FPS releases with game designers trying to redefine this old favourite genre. But despite several embellishments towards realism and gameplay at its core it remains the same; power ups, health, big f**kin guns and kills.



Playstation

With its Playstation line, Sony has been at the forefront of innovation in the console space. PS was the console that popularised the CD format of digital distribution, and the PS2 is the world's largest selling console with over 150 million units in circulation, and popularised the use of DVDs. The PS3 did the same thing for Blu-ray. Yes troubles with PSN (Play Station Network) off late have tarnished its former glory, but PlayStation still remains a strong name in the console space, with all eyes currently on the PlayStation Vita, the next version of the PSP handheld.

SecondLife

Second Life lets you explore a mirror world in virtual reality where you can do many of the things you do in real life – buy crap, be broke, get married, pick fights, get bullied, attend concerts, et al. Wait a minute, don't you do these things in real life anyway? So why would you want to do them all over again in cyber space?! Beats us. We can understand the gold rush post the initial hype, and yet thousands of people still flock to this once multi-player game and now a virtual chat room of sorts. Why does it feature here then? For it being the precursor to a new step in gaming. Even today specific islands do host customised role-playing games in this ghost-town of a virtual world. *Second Life* could very well be a fledgling step into a form of gaming that is yet to be fully exploited and explored.

Zynga

Don't scoff at us for saying this, but all those OCD afflicted procrastinators of work who spend endless hours on social games - expanding their Mafia gangs, enlisting Vampires, and irrigating their farms - are also gamers. Gamers of a different kind but gamers nonetheless. And this new breed has come into existence purely on account of seminal work in social gaming by a small startup called Zynga. Starting of with the limited success of Poker, the company now has 200 million monthly active users, with games such as Farmville. Shocking.

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See the difference™

Nintendo

Talking about Nintendo's influence in gaming is like talking about Steve Job's influence in the making of the iPod. But for a company that initially tried running ahem "Love Hotels", did incredible feats in the gaming industry. It's known for legendary titles such as super Super Mario brothers, Donkey Kong as well as consoles such as the NES (Nintendo Entertainment System) and GameBoy handheld. Later on Nintendo went on to create the Nintendo DS and Nintendo Wii which completely changed the way people played games. Joysticks and D-pads became old news, and overnight video-games became a thing to do for almost everyone.



It wasn't just teenagers who were gaming now, suddenly older people started hosting Wii themed house parties and doddery grandmas were playing tennis in their living rooms. Ok we're exaggerating a little but you get the idea.

$1,000,000,000

Is the amount most analysts estimate Blizzard makes annually in revenue from World of Warcraft. Considering Blizzard made around $250 million in 2005, estimates suggest that currentlyit makes around $1 billion from its subscriberf 11.5 million users.

Exergaming



A mix of Exercise and Gaming that finally got couch potatoes to drop their gamepads and move their a** without compromising on their daily fix of video game entertainment. Motion gaming completely upturned the earlier ideology that gaming makes people sedentary. It's roots lie in rudimentary kits like Power Pad for Nintendo Entertainment System and Arcade games like Dance Dance Revolution. But the genre really came into major spotlight with the release of Nintendo's Wii (and its peripherals) when motion gaming as a whole revolutionised the way games are played. What followed was Playstation Move and Xbox Kinect, together taking gaming in the living room to all members of the family not just the young people. But is it just limited to fitness and sports themed games? Not quite. Even mainstreams game franchises are soon going to bite in on the action. BioShock Infinite is slated to have support for PS Move while the Kinect will play nice with the upcoming Halo CE. A port of Arkham Asylum is also rumoured to be under development for the recently unveiled Wii U. So in the end, the take away is pretty obvious – "We like to move it move it"!

World of Warcraft

What WoW did was to take what was thought of by most as "hardcore" to what now is thought of as an everyday thing. Millions of non-gamers worldwide have now become addicted to this as a way of life. We're pretty sure you've heard of people dying after 48 hours of continuous gaming, or people getting married in-game, etc. Apart from all this silliness, the Corrupted Blood Incident for instance was used by Epidemiologists to study the spread of diseases. It was a game glitch that players intentionally exploited in 2005. It gave scientists clues to how humans would behave when infected with a disease.



Counter Strike

Surprise surprise! We couldn't have wrapped up with a gaming A to Z round-up without talking about Counter Strike, right? In India, at least, CS is as much a part of popular culture as it is simply a product. Essentially a Half-life mod developed by Minh "Gooseman" Le and Jess "Cliffe" Cliffe, the game quickly became a part of international gaming tournaments. Clans formed and there are people in the world who make a living out of playing CS professionally. On the flip-side there are whispers of CS provoking crazed gun massacres, leading to bans and all round parental outrage. Yet most of us just want to get our hands on Global Offensive which is scheduled to be released early next year. Fire in the hole!



DirectX

When the x86 architecture was first created, it wasn't made keeping in mind its now ubiquitous usage – gaming. Unlike consoles that have the same hardware specifications for each device, PC hardware is different. This presented an enormous problem while developing games. Along came DirectX from Microsoft that created a programming interface between the OS and the underlying hardware. When manufacturers came out with components all they had to do was ensure that they gave a DirectX compatible driver. After this any I/O function written by the programmer for the component simply worked as required! In a way it transformed a sophisticated calculator into an entertainment device. The latest version of DirectX (11.1) features stereoscopic 3D.



Violence

We're not talking about cute little turtles toppling over and falling off the screen. We're talking about content that's the reason the ERSB put that black and white M (Mature) box on your latest gaming title. These days a game is no fun without chainsaws, disembowelment, blood, gore, shrapnel and body parts flying around. Hey don't judge us. There's inner peace to be found in mindless violence.



Artificial Intelligence

As absurd as it may sound, perhaps the single most important factor that gave rise to single player gaming as well as promoted multiplayer gaming was AI. Games are fun because of the illusion of intelligent gameplay that non-human players can sometimes exhibit. What started off as mere pattern based puppetry for CPU players soon tried to emulate tactical behaviour. Of course game AI still has a long way to go. We can experience quite disappointingly when Nightmare bots become easy frags. Yet when you still scoff, "look at that dumb bot", you have in a way acknowledged its human-ness, and in a small way AI has succeeded. But where AI fails multiplayer online gaming thrives. No AI can yet replicate the absolute randomness of a nOOb on meth or the strategic brilliance of the Koreans. Taking a page out of this realm, the next revolution in AI may be to learn and teach itself based on these zillions of bits of game data created from online matches.

47 per cent

Of the games being played online are Puzzle/Board/GameShow/Trivia/Card.
11% are Persistent Multi-Player Universe games, 14% are Downloadable games such as Bejewled, 16% are Action/Sports/Strategy/Role Play, and 12% are others





APP ECOSYSTEM

Digitus Primus

No, this is not the scientific name of a Digit reading primate. Evolution is a long drawn out process taking millions and millions of years. One thing we didn't realise though, at the time we stepped down from the trees was that, the "Digitus Primus" has been one of the greatest gifts to mankind ever. Of course it wasn't much used, though your sixth grade biology books would beg to differ. With the advent of the mobile phone however, these have really come of age, with apps and entire interfaces being designed around them. For those of you who haven't figured it out yet, we're talking about thumbs!

PhoneGap

Consider this situation, you so very badly want to buy a phone made by X. X-Phone looks lovely, has a gorgeous UI and the camera of your dreams, however, you also have the very decent Phone Y running on a more popular platform and hosting the app of your dreams. Something to improve your productivity no end, ***Angry Birds***, whatever. If it wasn't for apps like PhoneGap, which bridge the "gap" between various platforms by providing a consistent platform to host your app, you would be left with bland looking Y simply because your app won't run on the gorgeous X!

N-gage

There are few among us who had the pleasure of owning and playing on the N-gage devices from Nokia. The device was way ahead of its time and boasted of some of the best 3d games of its era. Originally meant to be a direct competitor to Nintendo's GameBoy device, the N-gage just couldn't keep up due to the lack of games and being an expensive device. Nokia didn't give up hope however and continued to develop N-gage as a platform before releasing it as a service in 2005, on the N-81. This service was again not well-received and Nokia had to finally discontinue the service completely in 2008.



Rovio

Who would have thought that hurling screeching birds at starving pigs' heads holding out behind flimsy wood, stone and glass structures would turn out to become one of the most popular mobile games ever? Rovio certainly didn't. ***Angry Birds*** is currently the most popular mobile game and boasts of over 500 million downloads to date. You really must feel for the poor, suffering pigs though. How would you feel if you were just about to boil an egg and you suddenly saw a black bird hurtling toward you while screaming insane invective, only to turn red and blow up at your feet in a puff of black feathers? An unnerving experience for sure.

ROVIO

$5,000,000,000

The amount of money, that Apple makes solely on the sale of apps from the iTunes App store. The store has grown in popularity so much that now an average of ten million apps are downloaded daily. With developers numbering in the hundreds of thousands, the sheer number of apps available has hit record heights as well.

Snake

That ever-growing, gluttonous creature that only gets faster with time. Snake is to mobile gaming what ***Doom*** was to the PC. The game was a staple feature on almost all Nokia devices for almost a decade and is the most popular mobile game on the planet. For a game that started out as a students' exercise in BASIC, this is quite an achievement. Now though, despite being such a good game, Snake is dying out. Nokia still retains the copyright to the 3D version of the game (by far the best version) and has no plans to release a remake in the foreseeable future. A sad day indeed for mobile gaming.

Gameloft

A French game developer, Gameloft is almost synonymous with the mobile gaming scene. Owned by the Guillemot brothers, the owners and founders of Ubisoft, the company has always enjoyed exclusive rights to some of the biggest games on the PC and console platforms. The company's products have won many awards including "game of the year" for ***Assassin's Creed*** in 2008. The company is also famous for its "***Asphalt***" racing games.

Zomato

While most people would be running around looking for lost menu cards when they were hungry, Deepinder Goyal decided to actually deal with the problem instead of fluttering about, and, started off by creating a way to manage and digitise the piles of restaurant menus that he and his friends used. The result was Zomato. The web app now covers over 2000 restaurants in Delhi, Kolkatta, Mumbai, Pune and Bangalore, with plans to expand further.

APP ECOSYSTEM

X-Men

XDA-Developers.com is a web site that was started by a handful of guys in 2003, with the sole purpose of starting a community to discuss mods and development for XDAs (PDAs with Xtra features). Eight years down the line, the site is now home to almost three million developers and end-users and is the definitive site to come to for information regarding Windows Phone and Android devices. The site sports detailed reviews of the devices, especially HTC, along with their application packages and custom ROMs for each, if available. A site that you must visit if you own a device of either platform.



Freeman, Jay

Many have moaned and groaned and cursed Apple for its "big-brother" type control of the app store. Nobody however, had the courage to stand up to it. Jay Freeman has done just that. The fact that Apple banned his app from its store didn't stop him. He went along anyway and launched his own app store, Cydia. The app store currently provides developers and hapless iOS users alike with a "democratic" alternative to iTunes. Testament to the popularity of the app store is the fact that many of the much-hyped iOS 5 features were already implemented and available on jailbroken devices via the Cydia store.

Kindle Cloud Reader

Amazon boasts of the largest e-book store in the world, being a host to over 300,000 e-books from over 130 publishers. Amazon of course, saw no point in restricting access to only the Kindle and thus released the Kindle Cloud Reader. Not wanting to pay Apple for allowing people to use Amazon's own services, the cloud reader was developed to be a web app capable of allowing access to its entire online library without the need for iTunes. This was a move to get away from the overbearing policies of the iTunes app store.

Ojanperä Tero (Ovi suite)

A radio engineer by profession, Ojanperä Tero was the executive VP and CTO and CSO of Nokia. He was also the man behind Nokia's Ovi store as well a its "Comes with music" service, all of which bombed in the market. Many people do blame him for Nokia's loss, and are, arguably, correct to some extent as he was responsible for the Symbian



platform which is now just barely managing to even gasp for breath. However, Nokia is not giving up on him so easily, especially since he has spent 21 years of his life shaping the company into what it is today. He is now being sent off to head a Vision+, a company that will invest Nokia's money into app development for the emerging WP7 app market.

Laurs, Ilja

"Appsolutely Free", the motto of GetJar. It's hard to believe that there's an app store currently available that is completely free and hosts enough apps to rival even the likes of the Android and iTunes marketplaces. Started in 2003 as a platform for developers to get access to a multitude of devices for testing, the site is now host to free apps and has served over a billion downloads so far. To Ilja Laurs, the brainchild and founder of GetJar we say, appsolutely brilliant!

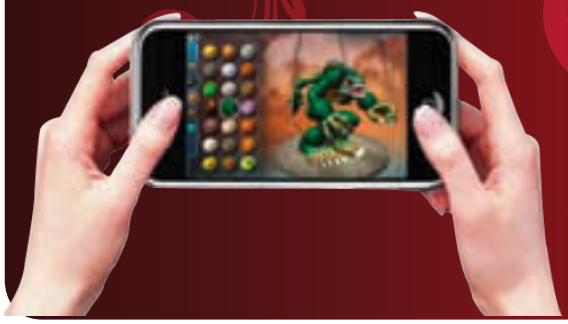


Crowley, Dennis



A man featuring in Forbes's 40 under 40 list of Business's hottest rising stars of 2010 must not be taken lightly, Dennis Crowley is the CEO of foursquare. foursquare is a location-based social networking website for mobile devices which allows users to "check-in" to venues. It also introduced the concept of a "Mayor" and achievement badges where the user who "checks in" earns these titles or badges. We have our very own mayoral battles going on in our office itself.

$33,000,000,000



is what the mobile gaming industry was worth last year. App sales have taken off at an incredible scale, outselling even online music purchases 10 to 1. OS and mobile phone manufacturers are scrambling for a share in this lucrative market, few have succeeded though. To put this in perspective, the Android marketplace rakes in a measly $330,000,000, a tenth of Apple's earnings.

APP ECOSYSTEM

Whatsapp

Whatsapp allows you to stay in touch with your friends, relatives, acquaintances, etc. via whatever internet access you have on your phone or device. You can easily send group chats, share images and videos and so much more. Supporting push services and being platform independent, all that you would require is that your friends have the same app and your device is registered and you are set. The only drawback? Whatsapp is free only for a year and requires usage and activation fees after that.

Augmented reality

The future is augmented. The future is now. Augmented Reality is no more in the realms of science fiction. Apps are available right now that can turn your



device into a tricorder with a database backbone similar to that of the hitch-hiker's guide to the galaxy. All the information you would ever need can be at your fingertips at the click of a button. AR will soon be a way of life.

Bloom

Fancy yourself a modern Beethoven in the making but limited by your lack of musical knowledge or even the rudimentary knowledge regarding the use of musical instruments? Bloom is the app for you. Much like the theremin (http://bit.ly/1icBj4) of yore, this app allows you to create music by just tapping anywhere on the screen, the position of the tap deciding the tone and pitch. You can quite literally tap like a maniac using the full power of multi-touch to create psychedelic masterpieces that are uniquely yours.



$1,000,000

is what Angry Birds makes from its ad-supported free versions alone. This mobile game has spread like wildfire and there is barely a platform that is unsupported and, with over five hundred million-downloads so far, Rovio is set to make billions from this game.



Evernote

You remember your old granny or teacher used to complain about you saying, "It's no use, this one's head is always in the clouds!" How right they were! This app allows you to store all your flitting thoughts, memories, photos, etc. in the cloud and allows you to access them from anywhere. A virtual extension of your brain, it syncs to the cloud almost instantly. Beware the day the servers crash, your brain will be reduced to slush and you'll have not a thought in your head!

Handyscan

App developers have slowly started realising that your phone's camera can be so much more than just an image capture device. With the right processing software, such as Handyscan, you can convert any document, receipt, image, etc. into a very handy and portable pdf or jpg format. If you're feeling lazy enough, you can even scan your signature and digitally sign your documents after that. The app even allows you to scan and fill up forms. The fabled paperless office can start right here.



Yongzh

Yongzh, or Yong Zhang as he was originally named is best known as the creator of the Nesoid, Snesoid, Gensoid, N64oid, Ataroid, Gearoid and Gameboid series of emulators, with the pious purpose of bringing classic console gaming goodness to mobiles. Since it was illegal, his developer account was shutdown and he has now been kicked off the Android app marketplace. He still gives his apps away for free on SlideME.

QR codes

A QR code can contain quite a bit of data for their size and you just need a phone with a camera and compatible software to read them. Everything is being converted to QR codes now, download links, advertisements, shopping tags, business cards, profile photos, etc. Next we'll be tagging our kids with QR codes and replace addresses, building names, number plates, etc. as well.

iTunes



When it comes to apps and app stores, it is the sheer numbers that boggle the mind. The store at the top of this "mind-boggling" list is iTunes. Starting off with about 200,000 apps in 2003, we are quite sure that apple was smugly confident that they had kick-started a revolution. We live in an age where the success or failure of a platform is defined by the number of apps available in the market, and the iTunes store is the yardstick by which other app stores are measured today.

Mobile wallet

Mobile wallets? An interesting concept. The idea behind this is that you can use apps like mChek to complete your transactions and thus avoid the necessity of carrying a wallet around with you. The problem is the adoption rate, people are



wary of this new technology and are unsure of what to expect. What happens when your phone is stolen? Do the thieves have access to your bank account? The technology has potential and only needs secure implementation.

Turn-by-turn navigation

"Men don't ask for directions. A well-known fact and why should we? We're ultimately going to get where we're supposed to go and



we are perfectly capable of getting there without outside help and we'll get there in our own time. What's the tearing hurry? Turn-by-turn navigation? Hah! That is just something to keep the missus happy, though it's always nice to get directions on twisty roads Makes us feel like rally drivers!"



$1,400,000

is what the advertisers are paying for in-app advertisements this year. By 2014, this number is expected to double. This is good news for us as the cost of mobile gaming has steadily declined. The number of free apps available has gone up as well, along with a decline in the number of users willing to pay for them. Around 58per cent of the top 200 highest grossing apps are free!

Universal Translators



Current generation translators harness the power of your mobile device to provide you with real-time translations. You can now travel to the far ends of earth, comfortable in the knowledge that language will not be a barrier. Just ensure that the others enunciate their words correctly and speak a known tongue. You may have guts, barging into a group of aboriginal cannibals, hoping to save the helpless maiden about to be impaled on a spit with a vague idea of talking them out of it, but you won't have any left when they're done with you.

Vox Populi

"Intelligent" chat bots and voice recognition software such as Siri, have provided mobile devices users with a new level of control, one, which implemented well, can be extremely functional as well as fun to use. There are drawbacks though. Talking to your phone would require a certain style, something that will make you end up sounding like a version



of HAL or GLaDOS as you go around chatting with your phone in an accented monotone.

JVM / Java



JVM is the quintessential platform for embedded systems, especially mobile devices Without this, the mobile app revolution would not have really taken off. It was one of the first systems to allow for true platform independence, an essential factor in the development of the mobile app marketplace. Much as some might curse Java for being restrictive and not as customisable (s40 vs s60), the very fact that it could run on almost any device, regardless of brand or manufacturing process, is a huge boon. The platform is so popular that Google actually developed a variant of their JVM as the basis for their extremely popular Android OS, named as Dalvik.



iTunes, not again

iTunes users may seldom complain about its sluggish performance and how its not the best music management application, however the truth is that



iTunes revolutionized the way we listen to our music on the go. It all began when SoundJam MP was purchased in 1999 by Apple and was released in 2001 under a new name - iTunes. However it wasn't until 2004 when iTunes got it's true identity. Major GUI changes were made to the program and along came the famous cover flow design which has inspired a lot of user interfaces ever since. iTunes also brought along with it the whole idea of purchasing a song for 99 cents. This wasn't heavy on the pocket and listeners resorted to this new way of buying music rather than downloading illegally. Apart from syncing music, videos and podcasts the Genius feature got added in 2008 which now recommended songs based on your listening taste. There might be better music managers than iTunes out there but this is where it all began.

Gooey

Back in the days when Steve Jobs was invited by Xerox to their office, they showed him three things. First was object oriented programming, the second thing was a network of about a hundred Alto computers all using email, but it was the third thing which left Jobs speechless it was GUI. Jobs stealing Xerox's idea and implementing it on Apple machines is all



part of history now. GUI has played a major role in the way we interact not only with our computers but also with our mobile devices, our MP3 players, GPS devices and so on. GUIs that are common for both PCs and tablets is where the wave seems to be heading, especially with the Windows 8 metro style GUI which is tablet ready. A similar interface was used in Zune MP3 players and now Windows phone 7 ships with it.

Piracy

Ever since the dawn of the Internet, piracy has spread its wings and ruled the underbellies of the world wide web. We doubt there's anyone out there who hasn't indulged in any sort of piracy till now? However harsh piracy might be on software and programme developers it's always the consumers of cracked applications who walk away laughing. Back in the early nineties annual loss



to software companies from piracy was a staggering 15 billion dollars, this number now stands at more than 50 billion and most of it comes from the Asia region. We all love our websites which have a pirate ship on it but that doesn't stop the copyright laws in our country to get more stringent.

File system

File system organises and retains data in a hierarchical structure enabling it to be retrieved later once the program is terminated. It also controls



the naming convention of files authorising which characters can be used and how long the name of the file can be. Both the operating system and the file system are closely tied where some file systems provide access to the data and metadata. Data storage devices such as hard disk drives, optical discs and flash memory all use file systems. File allocation table (FAT) file system which was originally developed for the DOS system was held up in 2006 due to issues in its patents.

R.M.S

Expanded as Richard Matthew Stallman better known as a software hipppie is an advocator of free software. Stallman has been the brain behind the GNU project whose main aim



has been to develop sufficient amount of software so that users may never need to pay for it. He's also the president and founder of Free Software Foundation (www.fsf.org). Witty guy that he is our last conversation with him resulted in this 'I am located somewhere on Earth, but as far as responding to email is concerned, I appear to be well outside the solar system'.

$29,000,000,000

$ 2.9 billion is the amount that companies lose due to software piracy annually and this is just from the developing countries. In UK Business Software Alliance offers a bounty of 20,000 pounds to employees who inform of their company's illegitimate software practices

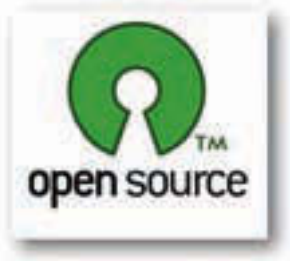
Virus

We all have been victims of worms, trojans, malware, adware, phishing and all sorts of viruses you can name. The instances of such malicious code has only multipied in the true sense of its name over the past couple of years. Take this for reference in the year 1990 there were 357 unique malware pieces on PCs. This increased to more than 55 million by the end of 2010. Stuxnet and more recently Duqu are fine examples of craftsmanship of deadly viruses which caused havoc in the state of Iran and the latter spread through P2P networks and moved from less secured areas to secure zones.



Open Source

The philosophy of Open Source originates from the idea of having the right to share, modify and redistribute software. The story of Open Source begins with a printer, which was installed in Richard Stallman's organisation where he worked as a programmer. Once Stallman was having trouble with his printer, he tried to re-install the software but that didn't work, so he contacted the printer's manufacturer and asked him for a copy of the source code of the printer's program so he could fix any bugs that were in it. He was refused the data citing trade mark issues. This is what led to the development of GNU license, FSF and Open Source culture. Stallman has been at the forefront of the movement ever since.



API

We can't really imagine programming or developing a software without APIs. They are the building blocks of a code and the better these blocks are the better the output is. Application programming interface is given out to developers by most of the operating environments. This enables the developers to code in accordance with them. APIs can be language dependent which means it can accessed by using the syntax and elements of a particular language or APIs can be language independent where these components can be called from various programming languages. The Android SDK has the most amount of open APIs today.

Linux



What started as Linus Torvalds's experiment in 1991 became a thriving industry in less than ten years of its inception. Linux revolutionised the way we use technology today It's everywhere around you, its in your phone, it powers the servers which bring you Facebook, Google and the entire web, it powers your ATM machine and runs the world's supercomputers. There is a new Linux distribution system coming out every three months. And it's not just about spreading free love Red Hat was the first Linux company to have come out with an IPO. Linux founder Linus had a little incident at the zoo with a penguin and that's how the Linux mascot came into the picture.

Kernel

Although a kernel is an integral part of a computer it is not necessarily required to bridge the gap between the hardware and the software to run it. Back in the day computers were reset and reloaded in between execution of programs, this slowly changed when debuggers and program loaders were left in memory between runs. This made the formative part of kernels. Today kernels act as a bridge between applications and the data which is processed at the hardware level.

Dennis Ritchie [dmr]

Social media channels recently had this comparison chart trending, where Steve Jobs and his contribution to the world and Dennis Ritchie and his contribution to the world were compared. The end result of this was that inspite of Jobs being hailed as the messiha of technology he wouldn't have got his dues if it wasn't for Dennis Ritchie. He's considered to have "helped shaped the digital era" his contributions have been enormous in forms of UNIX operating system and C programming language. He was also commonly known by his nickname dmr



9117

is the approximate number of employees that Adobe has currently. Adobe has a network of about 27 offices the world over, out of these two are in India. The Bangalore office currently employees about 400 people

$63,000,000,000

$ 6.3 billion is the amount that companies lose per day due to virus attacks according to Mcafee's annual security report. Another report says that around 200 million machines are infected by malware on a daily basis

JUDCon

JUDCon is a developers conference that takes place annually and deals with JBoss community projects. The next event is scheduled to take place in India on the 24th and 25th of January 2012. JUDCon attracts several core developers and other heavy weights from the community each year and is targeted at meeting and understanding the issues faced by JBoss developers. The event is spread over two days of workshops focusing on community interaction and development.



Brendan Eich

Brendan Eich is credited with co-founding Mozilla corporation and inventing Javascript. In his initial years at Netscape he was given the task to make web pages more dynamic. Javascript developers hail him as the mighty lord himself. He started working on a scripting language and came up with Livescript which was part of Netscape Navigator 2.0. Netscape became the first Java licensee and Livescript became Javascript. Brendan later co-founded Mozilla and holds the position of CTO in the organization. He joined the board of Ajax.org this year in March.



Zip file format

Users generally haggle with file size issues especially when they have to share it with someone over the internet. All of this changed with Zip file compression coming in the picture in 1989. Developed by Phil Katz the Zip format derived its name from something that's fast and swift. PKZIP missed out on the opportunity to bring Zip format to the Windows platform first simply because developer Phil Katz wasn't fond of Windows. Zip file compression has made it easier for users every where to share large data files.

Hackfests

Hackfest is a fast and productive way of getting work done which would otherwise take weeks or months to finish. Hackfest involves a bunch of coders sitting together and fixing bugs, adding new features or putting out a regular release of the software or distro they are currently working on. The Zeitgeist team, a group of hackers at an Open SUSE hackfest in 2009 accomplished mammoth work in just four hours which would have normally taken several weeks to complete. Hackfests generally happen locally within a community of people which have been working together closely on a project. A hackfest comprises of several teams, each team is given a task to complete and at the end of the hackfest all teams compile their work together resulting in completion of the project.

Windows



We all share a love hate relationship with our beloved OS. And the most intense of them all is with the Windows platform, several BSODs and head aches later most of us still seem to crawl back to our PCs. It may be because of our habituation to Windows. PC lovers find themselves alienated on a MAC or an Ubuntu machine. Maybe not so much on Ubuntu but MAC yes. Windows XP still rules the roost with a 48 percent market share, with Windows 7 at 34 percent, Windows still is the most loved OS.

Enterprise software

Essentially software used by organisations is referred to as enterprise software. Year on year companies invest millions of dollars on enterprise software, although it wasn't until early this year when positive results started to show. Enterprise software usage topped over 50 percent for the first time, this means that the organisations in this business collectively achieved effective usage of 54 percent which is the highest ever. Effective usage refers to the rate of investment and effective user engagement in this software category.



Enterprise software

Mac OS



Mac fanboys might be ready to draw wands or whatever the hell it is they carry around the moment they hear someone diss their beloved OS or its 'creator'. It's true however that all of us have our favorites. The Mac OS X came from a Unix and a NeXTSTEP based background. As of August 2011 the Mac OS X has a share of about 7.31 percent in the OS market. After a number of years in tussle with Microsoft, Mac OS remains a niche favorite. What created a buzz in the OS market with it's release treaded on a silent path later and exists in today only in a handful of machines. However Mac OS X has maintained itself over the years as a cool OS, something which is classy, incredible to look at and is cool to work with.

Yahoo messenger



Talking about Yahoo messenger truly takes one down memory lane. It was one of the first tools that made social networking a reality. Back in the glory days of Yahoo messenger chat rooms used to be full with random ASL requests popping up every now and then. A whole chatting culture got evolved because of it. Personal and group chats became the fad of the season with specialized chat rooms coming into the picture. Initially released under the name of Yahoo pager in 1998 it brought with it concepts such as Buzzing, music status, avatars and integrated address books. Its currently in its 11th version.

Ubuntu



Ubuntu gets its name from a Southern African philosophy ubuntu, which mean humanity towards others. Its one of the most famous Linux distributions and is funded by Canonical. Ubuntu comes out with a new version every six month since 2004. There's long term release commitment with every fourth edition of Ubuntu which means that security patches and other bug issues would be resolved and updated by the Ubuntu team till the next fourth release.

Torrent

Isn't it kind of surprising that a tiny little software which weighs a few KBs is capable of downloading several GBs of data. We're talking about the bit torrent client µtorrent. µtorrent has been in the foray of peer to peer protocol for quite some time now. With its more recent releases µtorrent started offering legal content licensed under creative commons.

Nullsoft

Nullsoft's claim to fame is Winamp music player, apart from that the company has also created SHOUTcast MP3 which is a media streaming server. Nullsoft is basically a parody on Microsoft, its mascot is a south American sheep like animal known as a llama. Nullsoft's Winamp has been one of the most famous media players which has almost directed the way we consume our music.

1/5

Indian IT employees are paid one fifth of a salary as compared to their US or European counterparts. This is also because of the fact that India produces a huge pool of English speaking graduates each year making it easier for IT companies to recruit in mass.

DiVX

DiVX comprises of two essential codecs – MPEG-4 Part 2 and H.264 MPEG-4. DiVX as a codec has gained immense popularity in the past few years mainly due its video compressing qualities while still maintaining high picture quality. It's one of the most preferred codecs to rip a particular file. French hacker Jerome Rota and his colleague reverse engineered a codec when a video refused to play in Windows Media Player, and the rest is history.

Quicktime

You might hate it or love it but you can't ignore the Quicktime player. Currently in its tenth avatar Quicktime supports about a handful of formats and requires additional components to play a variety of other codecs. Debuting in 1991 Quicktime's developers played the famous 1984 Apple ad on a Mac in Worldwide Developers Conference promoting it as a multimedia add-on for System Software 6.



TiVo

TiVo to the western world is what DVR or Digital Video Recording is to the rest of us. In existence for little over a decade now, TiVo was the first device launched that could record cable television content on a hard disk rather than magnetic tape or VHS. TiVo also introduced the world to TV guides, or on-screen programme information, much to the joy of couch potatoes the world over. The product became iconic and soon added words to the English lexicon such as "TiVo'ed" which meant to record any TV show. TiVo or it's modern day avatars, the DVRs have very recently hit our shores but are catching on quickly.

Bose, Amar

Yes we know Audiophiles (refer to A) reading this would turn up their noses, but that doesn't take away the contribution of Amar Bose to the field of Psychoacoustics and of course the fact that he is one of the richest people in the world. He was elected a Fellow of IEEE, 1972 - for contributions to loudspeaker design, two-state amplifier-modulators, and nonlinear systems. The company he founded in 1964 Bose Corporation, is well known even in non-audio enthusiasts circles. It may not provide the best value for money offerings but hey it forms an important part of home entertainment. More so also because of the unique space saving design.

332,000 kg

The weight of the world's largest HD TV currently in operation. Set up on the Charlotte Motor Speedway somewhere in America, this TV measures a whopping 200ft by 80ft.

Universal remotes

If any device has had the maximum contribution to laziness at home, it has to be the remote. This innocuous little clicker lets the pro-convenience user sit back, relax and comfortably add on a couple of pounds while surfing his favourite channels. Over the years, the remote has evolved quite a bit. From controlling only one device they expanded their reach to many peripherals. Some years ago Logitech and Philips came out with really fancy remotes from the Harmony and Control Panel series respectively. These things had three figure dollar prices, and came with touch screens. The most recent generation of remotes sport Qwerty keyboards to pair with web-capable Smart TVs and HD Media Players. What's next? Thought controlled remote implants? Maybe.



DLNA

Digital Living Network Alliance is simply a standard for which devices can be certified. Such DLNA certified devices can easily communicate with each other on a home network. Devices range from TVs, AV Receivers, Home Theaters, Network Storage Drives, Cameras, Gaming Consoles, to even Printers. All these devices can share media with each other. You can play a movie from your NAS box on your HD Screen, upload or print photos from your camera and basically have digital media accessible from anywhere to any device.

CES 2010

At Consumer Electronics Show, held every year at Las Vegas, the stars of the technology world announce cutting edge innovations to spellbound audiences. The show sees several "world firsts" and has always been dazzling visitors right from its debut in 1967. But one edition from recent years that stood apart was CES 2010. Hailed as the year of 3D, the show saw several innovative products from the likes of Samsung, LG and Sony. But Intel and Alioscopy showcased screens that stole the show – 3D displays that don't need those dorky glasses – Autostereoscopic displays. We also saw several small products such as the AR Drone that added their own unique flavour to the cutting-edge melange.

Audiophile

An Audophile is someone who takes his audio seriously; way too seriously! They are an arcane lot who'll survive on instant noodles for a whole year if they have to, just so that they can invest in that high-end difficult to procure piece of audio equipment which costs the equivalent of a kidney on the black market. While most of us would be happy with high quality cables, these guys sell an arm and leg to get gold wires. Jokes apart if we were to define Audiophiles, they are a community of enthusiasts who are constantly engaged in improving audio reproduction at home by investing in equipment and software that will enhance their aural experience. Can usually be spotted using words like "lush, sparkly, bright, sonorous texture, wide soundstage" to describe audio.



Plasma Speakers

Speaker diaphragms are supposed to be extremely light, and they can't get lighter than this. Plasma speakers are massless speakers which use plasma arcs to heat the air and produce changes in air-pressure and hence, sound. Of course, you would require a high voltage source and Helium, not to mention that the Ozone gas produced is actually poisonous and can kill you. At $23,000 for a high quality driver, this is a very expensive way of committing suicide. But, who cares? In the quest for audio nirvana certain sacrifices have to be made. Check out the video at: http://bit.ly/FcsGS

XBMC

What is the point of having a fancy home theatre system with a vast collection of movies and video if you don't have the right software to support that hardware? It's like having a fancy PC and not installing an OS. This is where XBMC comes in. It is an open-source media centre system specifically designed for home theatre systems. Featuring a 10 foot UI, screen size will never be an issue as far as legibility is concerned. Supporting a multitude of features including third-party plug-ins, easily editable code and a thriving open-source community, this media centre OS is the Android of the media centre world.

Klipsch audio

This venerable audio equipment manufacturer has been in operation since 1946. Their most famous speaker has to be the Klipschorn, or Khorn as it is better known. The speaker was patented in 1946 and now, more than 60 years down the line, the design is still their flagship loudspeaker set. Klipsch has always had a firm belief in horn loudspeakers and their designs mirror this. A company with a multitude of products ranging from IEMs to professional quality loudspeakers and PA systems, Klipsch is one of the old-time greats of the audio world.

HD

High-definition(HD) refers to a resolution higher than the traditional standard-defnition resolution. There are three factors that define HD - the number of lines in the vertical display resolution, which is either 1080 or 720, the scanning system it uses - progressive or interlaced and third the number of frames persecond - progressive scans stands at 60Hz and interlaced at 50Hz. The newest term buzzing in the industry is 4K. 4k is essentially a resolution of 4096x2048 and is an emerging standard for resolution in the industry. In contrast to SD resolutions that are represented by number of vertical pixels 4K is represented by horizontal pixels. With the world rushing to buy HDTV's, one question still haunts us - Is there enough HD content? Sadly, there isn't! But with the help of upscalers like HD media players one can get HD-like quality by upscaling lesser resolution videos to HD.

Gerry O' Sullivan

The Director of Strategic Development of Sky TV, this man heralded the 3D TV revolution in the UK with the launch of the SKY HD 3DTV service. With the limited amount of 3D content currently available in the market, it is nice to have 3D content directly available on your TV set. Subscribers for the service were so many that the profits of SKY went up by over 4 per cent this year alone. A trend we hope to see in our country in the near future.

IPTV

IPTV as a technology is relatively new and still evolving. In simple terms, Internet TV or IPTV, is video and audio delivered over the Internet. With IPTV, you can stream programmes to your TV, mobile device or PC. What sets IPTV apart is the access to a wide variety of content as compared to a cable TV. Video on Demand (VoD) is one of the killer features you get with IPTV. VOD is not just restricted to movies, and you can record TV programmes for later. However, IPTV has one huge drawback – it requires high bandwidth, and as we know, that's the one area India suffers. Even a slight dip in the bandwidth will result in a delay in the video and if the data is unreliable, you can expect more delays. But we hope that will change soon.

Zeppelin Air

This slim black coloured egg shaped dock speaker system from Bowers & Wilkins has one of the most unique form factors, with the dock connector projecting above the speakers. The interesting part apart from design is its ability to play music over the air from your iPod, iPad or even your PC or Mac using your home network.



Electrostatic headphone

In production since 1959, these headphones are extremely expensive to make and require a high voltage source just to power them (440V). Traditional drivers use wire coils attached to diaphragms and a permanent magnet mounted behind. This whole cumbersome setup, not counting the permanent magnet, is what moves back and forth to produce audio. Electrostatic transducers use an incredibly fine diaphragm, one that is lighter than the air enclosed by the cups, placed between 2 plates. This diaphragm is then charged with electrons, a process which takes a minute or two, and the audio signal then creates an electrostatic field which pushes or pulls the electrons, which in-turn move the diaphragm to produce audio. The quality of the sound produced by such a system is extremely precise, with distortion levels that are 30 times lower than those of the best loudspeakers in the world! There is no damping required as there is no resonance, the diaphragm is so light that the surrounding air is sufficient as a damper.

150 db

The sound level, in decibels, at which your chest walls will start to vibrate, cause changes in your respiratory rhythm, and even cause a gag reflex. This is the sheer volume of noise that a space shuttle makes when taking off.

Jeremy Kipnis

Jeremy Kipnis, a music engineer and producer put together a home-theatre that is sure to get entertainment junkies around the world insanely jealous. The entire setup cost him a ridiculous US $6million. If you are keen to know what equipment the system constists of, here you go - For the Video - A mammoth 18 x 10-foot Stewart Snowmatte 1.0 Gain Laboratory-Grade Motion Picture Screen, a Sony SRX-S110 Professional Video Projector with an ultra high 4K resolution. For the Speakers - An 8.8 channel audio system with 16 Snell 1800 THX Music & Cinema Reference Subwoofers, 8 Snell THX Music & Cinema Reference Towers, 10 MuRata ES103A Super Tweeters and 3 Snell THX Music & Cinema Reference LCR-2800 Center-Channel Speakers. For the Amps - 3 Crown Macro Reference Gold Amplifiers, 30 McIntosh MC-2102 Amplifiers, and 2 Mark Levinson N° 33h Amplifiers For Sound Processing and Decoding - 13 Theta Digital



Generation VIII 32-bit 8x Oversampling Dual Processors To know more about the entire list of equipments and to know more head here - http://goo.gl/Gh3k6 What will you do if you have US $6 Million?

$12,900

The cost of the world's most powerful sub. This monstrous device converts your entire room into an acoustic chamber and uses a massive fan to generate a cone of air through which it can produce bass frequencies of 1Hz!

Woofer

One of the most misunderstood devices in audio reproduction, the choice of woofer can make or break your system. It is important to note that a woofer is not the same as a sub-woofer. The former is good upto 50-100Hz, but it is only a true sub-woofer that can reach below that to produce clean notes at 20-35Hz or below. What most people don't realise is that even though bass is supposed to be omni-directional, it is only true for frequencies below 35Hz, which few systems can reproduce anyway. Music has always been recorded in stereo (we're not talking about pop here) and even for movies, all you need is a pair of headphones and an iPod to know that the bass is in stereo at the very least. A pair of sub-woofers or better still, full-range stereo speakers are what you actually need. Unless specifically recorded in mono, the bass is best reproduced in stereo. In fact, the x.1 channel in your surround sound systems is actually referred to as the "boom" channel in Hollwood. No recording engineer in his right mind would ever recommend an x.1 system for any kind of audio reproduction.



Satellite TV

The coming of satellite TV and quality DTH services sounded the death knell of the local *cablewallah*. No more would we have to be at the mercy of the local cable operator and worry about downed channels, poor signal quality and exorbitant prices. We now do that on a much larger scale, only, there are big corporations involved instead. The signal quality has improved tremendously and all operators now support HD. These services come with their own little niggles though. Gone are the days when you could hook multiple TVs to the same connection and watch Formula 1 while your parents watched their Saas Bahu serials. No more midnight "blockbuster" movies, rainy days can sometimes mean no signal and many more.



LED Technology

LED TVs are found in abundance now and are claimed to be the answer to all your movie watching dreams. However, actual LED TVs, where the LCD panel is replaced with an LED array, as in OLED or those huge billboards that you see, are very rare and quite expensive. Current generation TVs use LED back-lighting and while more power-efficient than conventional CFLs, there isn't much difference in quality. There is a technology called RGB Dynamic LED Technology, which uses red, green and blue LEDs coupled with dynamic back-light adjustments to considerably improve the contrast ratio and is something to look out for.



Netflix

Movies and TV shows streamed via the internet on your television set is a concept almost synonymous with Netflix, the American on-demand video service provider. At a minimal fee per month, you can watch unlimited movies or TV shows over the net. Till April 2011, it had over 23.6 million subscribers. At the All Things Digital conference this year, Netflix founder expressed his desire to start operations in South Asian countries including India. We hope it happens soon.

Frequency response

The frequency response of a device is a measure of its response or output to a particular input. In terms of speakers, the response is plotted on a graph, and the response curve for a speaker or high-end amplifier should be "flat" in the 20Hz to 20KHz range – without any distortion of any kind. Audiophiles have argued about the perfect speaker, but ultimately, the consensus seems to be that it is best to have as flat a frequency response as possible.

Optical media

With optical media came digitization and a revolution in the way that content was viewed by end users. Optical media differed greatly from previous Analog media types such as magnetic tapes and vinyl records. The playback from a compact disk or DVD does not degrade in quality depending on the number of times it's been played, unlike its predecessors. The other factor that led to a revolution of sorts was the quantum leaps optical media made in terms of data storage capacity. Today a dual layer Blu-ray disk can store upto 50GB of data - an amount unimaginable about a decade ago. These vast fields of storage enabled encoding of high definition content and multiple channel sound amongst other things, taking the Home Entertainment experience to stratospheric levels.



Minato, Tokyo

One of the 23 wards in Tokyo city, this place is the headquarters of the corporation that gave us Blu-ray technology, DVCAM standard, among many others. Yes we are talking of Sony corporation. And Sony is just one out of the 49 such conglomerates headquartered in Minato which also happens to have an insane density of over 10,000 people per square kilometre.

Virtual Reality

Within the realm of immersive technology at home, the sort of holy grail to reach for has always been Virtual Reality. All technologies used in home entertainment today - right from things like stereoscopic 3D displays to synced ambient lighting - all have one goal: to immerse you further into the content that you're watching. To try and appease all your senses innovators have come up with ways to tingle previously untapped senses such as your sense of smell. Another home entertainment system blows hot air at you synced and co-ordinated with explosions in the movie that you're watching. But the next step would be directly feeding your brain - the controller of all your senses - virtual experiences.

Quit while you're ahead

So you've got yourself a killer AV set up at home. Highend end receiver, floor standers, Blu-ray player and all the works. You call your friends over and are blown away by the high octane thrills your latest block buster Blu-ray is able to unleash. You kick back with the Playstation 3 until you're friends decide to call it a night. In a few months though there seems to be something amiss. Soon you notice that you're spending more and more time at home, slowly detaching from the world. You're so immersed in your high definition world that the real world starts loosing definition. This is what we call Entertainment Addiction Syndrome (EAS). The only known cure is to read technology magazines.



28 @ $5,000

The number of speakers that comprise the "Wall of sound", a massive iPod dock, literally as large as a small wall, boasting of an output power of 120W RMS and costing $5,000.

Red One

Red One Red Digital camera company is a renowned name in digital cinematography and Red One was their first camera produced in 2006. It has an 11.5 MP bayer pattern CCD sensor and is capable of shooting at a 4.5k resolution at 30 FPS. This is way beyond HD which is 1080p and with 4K resolution TVs coming in the near future, a lot of pure 4K content will be made by such cameras. Last year's blockbuster 'The Social Network' was shot completely on a Red One camera.

Yoon Woo Lee

The 65-year-old Vice Chairman of Samsung Electronics Co., Ltd. joined Samsung in 1968 and was appointed president of Samsung's Semiconductor business in 1996. From then, there's been no looking back for Yoon. Under his leadership in October this year, Samsung Smart TV app downloads reached 10 million. They very recently announced a tie up with Google as well and are all set to debut Google TV 2 with their devices over the coming months.

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User generated content

UGC spans everything generated by users in the digital world. Everything from discussion boards, blogs, wikis, social networking sites, Q&A



databases, news sites, journals, photos, videos, et al, all of those exabytes of data lying on servers around the world are user generated. It usually stems from a desire to express oneself; it is the social incentive, some form of catharsis that people look forward to when they create content. It is one of the things that defines Web 2.0, and levels the playing field – as users also generate content, rather than just being passive consumers.

IRC

A precursor to the modern day chat, IRC (Internet Relay Chat) was one of the most extensively used protocols for chatting. Even today, the top 100 IRC networks serve more than half a million users at a time. IRC was actually propelled into the spotlight during the gulf war in 1991. During this period information was relayed in real-time from around the world. After 2001 though, IRC saw its popularity decline, as other forms of chatting and filesharing took preference. However, all of the wise old hackers and a lot of the current day script kiddies still haunt the IRC networks. A good place to meet famous hackers, or to pick up a virus or two.

Crowd sourcing

A portmanteau of 'crowd' and 'outsourcing' it was coined by Jeff Howe in a Wired Magazine article "The Rise of Crowdsourcing", where he reasoned that the with the availability of latest technological advancements at low cost has decreased the disparity between professionals and amateurs, and thus companies can take advantage of talents of the public and get their work done at the same time. Not just companies; governments, civil services, schools, colleges and other such organisations can harness the power of Crowdsourcing. One of the best examples of cloud sourcing is Wikipedia. It remains to be seen whether crowdsourced initiatives can be financially viable – it looks bleak though, if Wikipedia's pleas for donations are anything to go by.

VoIP

VoIP (pronounced voyp) is perhaps a relatively old technology. However, it's one of the more important technologies in use today. Thanks to Skype and also your local ISP providing VoIP at dirt cheap rates, making calls all around the world was never easier and cheaper. In fact, even in India, as broadband penetration increases at a rapid rate, we're starting to see more and more options for dedicated hardware devices that use VoIP to make calls. It's the perfect way to connect our villages to the rest of the world, because of the cheap running costs.

Zuckerberged!



This guy doesn't warrant any introduction, a blockbuster Hollywood flick has done the needful. This Harvard drop-out, started Facebook, the world's largest social networking web site from his college dorm room and is currently valued at 4.27 billion USD. Apart from serving his iconic responsibilities, Zuckerberg is responsible for setting the overall direction and product strategy for Facebook. He also leads the development team that works on Facebook's core technology and infrastructure. The rest of the time he is busy updating his pet's Facebook profile. Lambasted left, right and centre for his stand on privacy and almost continuous changes in the UI, which Facebook seems to change like snake's skin. But with 800 million active users across the globe, Zuckerberg and Facebook will be here for good.

E-commerce

E-commerce tends to send you back to the good old days when the dot-com bubble had just started growing; Pepsi and Internet Cafes had started becoming a rage; like every one else we too are going retro. Though there is nothing retro about e-commerce, it is perhaps driving force behind the Internet today and most pertinent among all the discussions on Web. This is what enables companies that populate Internet to earn billions of dollars annually. Of course, e-commerce is not just about buying and selling products online, it is also about sourcing, marketing, supplying and providing post-sales support. With innovative new approaches such as group buying, and same day delivery (which Amazon plans to bring to India) e-commerce is all set to kill retail for good.

Google

A synonym for search, its something that has been embedded into our zeitgeist. Google has come a long way from its early days as search engine, to an ever burgeoning producer of massively successful products. But it seems to be consolidating now closing down many of the projects that didn't quite catch on. It also provides B2B solutions - Google App Engine which offers Google's own infrastructure to run your websites on. Google too caught on the social networking bug starting with Orkut, then Buzz and culminating in Google+. And then there was Android, followed by the coup-de-etat of buying out Motorola for a cool $12 billion dollars. It's currently the leading smartphone OS in the world with nearly half of the world's smart phones running Android. A company with a great sense of humor and keen idea about what exactly its users want, it is here to stay.

2,095,006,005

Estimated number of people across the world that use the Internet

Jeff Bezos

Jeff Bezos started Amazon as a "regret minimisation framework" to get over his regret of not taking part in the dot-com gold rush. He initially spent a lot of time on setting up distribution channels instead of consolidating his investments.



From a humble eBook store, it's grown to be the world's largest online retailer. Amazon handles billions of requests and petabytes of data daily. Ironically, it also hosts some of its competitors. His current plans are focused more on the mobility market (Kindle Fire, rumoured mobile, etc.) Amazon also bought Yap (text-to-speech), Siri, anyone? Exciting times ahead for Amazon and Bezos.

Semantic Web

The web as we see it now is a "web of documents". The drawback with the current version is that the computers that are processing the documents do not understand what is contained within it. Semantic web will change all this, its what Sir Tim Berners-Lee, calls a "web of data". The data is stored in such a way that the computers which process the file actually knows what is contained inside. So how will it work: say you go shopping for clothes to your favourite online store, it will populate the list based on your past purchases, fetch your preferences and dressing style from social networking sites, refine this based on latest trends in the fashion world and prioritise your favourite brand all this by the virtue of semantic web.

Privacy

Privacy involves rights of a user to know how his data or data concerning him is stored, repurposed (even for better services), provided to third-parties, and displayed to himself by a website in question. Say you searched Google for nutritional supplements for cats, you will find nearly all pages you visit next (even after a day or two) full of classifieds for cats. Then there is Facebook, with the massive data of its 800 million users world wide including but not limited to their preferences, name of relatives, contact details, geographical location. Apart from these, there are thousands of other sites, where users volunteer information about themselves and some which also track how user moves around the website. Facebook is continuously plagued with privacy issues on how it allow users to access the privacy settings. It is especially in the line of fire due to one of its service Beacon where your data is shared with 3rd parties to provide better ads (though you can select to opt out of it). Google also deletes your data after 90 days. But, privacy in these times is of paramount importance, and one must be very careful when volunteering information on the web.

YouTube

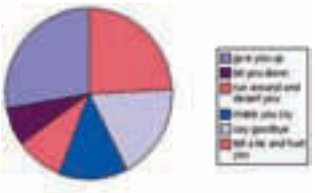
Do we really need to introduce YouTube to anyone anymore? Or even have to explain why it's in this list?

HTML5

HTML5 is touted to be the next game changing technology as far as the web is concerned. It will convert the muddled mess of documents that the web is right now. HTML5 along with a host of new features will also bring uniformity and standards to the web. What sets this version apart is the fact that it also bundles in a lot of APIs along with new features like the Geolocation API, Web Storage API, Web Workers API, File API, Web Notifications, Calendar API and a myriad others. Of course who can forget the <video> and the <canvas> elements, which has got most web designers/developers drooling. Many complain that this version is just a more semantically consistent version of HTML4 or XHTML1 if you will, but it certainly beats the crap out of previous version where precious time was spent writing Java Script codes and hooking it with elements on the page.

Rickrolling

Rick Astley never dreamt that his debut single will, become one of the Internets longest running and most endearing bait-and-switch meme. Like all famous memes, it started from the 4chan boards, it has something to do with duck on wheels, eggs and GTA IV (check out the connection at http://goo.gl/HGVc).



After this the online world went crazy over rickrolling – Youtube, the White House, Michelle Obama, and more promised that they were never gonna give you up, and never let you down.

Filesharing

The whole world has gone batty over files – from videos, movies, documents, sent for business or pleasure, what can you really do without files? We can't even imagine the days before filesharing – not even the illegal type, we're talking about just being able to share files easily. Thanks to large file sharing services, there's pretty much no limit either. Another significant change that filesharing brought to our lives, though no one really notices it, is telecommuting, and freelancing. Thanks to the ability to share even GBs of data across the globe, we don't need to sit in offices 9 to 5 anymore. Then of course there's piracy of movies and music, but we're covering that in a different section...



22,50,000

If all the pages of Wikipedia, were printed in a book, this is the number of pages that the book would have. And it would take you an estimated 123 years to read it.

70.5 per cent

Two categories - Real-Time Entertainment and Web Browsing, represent 70.5% of all downstream traffic in Asia-Pacific. Averaged over 24 hours, Real-Time Entertainment is the dominant downstream application category, accounting for 43.6% of downstream bytes. While Web Browsing comes in Runners-Up.

Browser Wars

Browser wars are perhaps as old as the web itself. We have come a long way from the blocky protoype on NeXT to the current streamlined versions which use hardware acceleration, snappy JavaScript engines and fast re-flow engines. And at the same time follow standards and recommendations laid out by W3C (surprising for a certain browser which always made a point to deviate in nearly all its previous versions). With the advent of HTML5 and CSS3 websites now behave like desktop applications, all browsers in some way or other support Web Apps. As far as market shares go, IE leads the pack with 39% followed by Firefox at 25% and Google Chrome at 21%, rest is shared by Opera, Safari and mobile browsers. But Google Chrome wins hands down as far as performance is concerned followed closely by Firefox.



Anonymous



How do you define something that is global, anarchic, amorphous, vindictive and bordering on psychopathy? Anonymous is each of these things and much more. Anonymous is centered around the philosophy of trolling, which means purposefully antagonizing people which according to Anonymous is "getting inside someone's head so they leave the Internet for ever". But scales and dynamics have now changed it has grown from bullying people on forums and imageboards; to compromising causing global unrest. (Check out the interactive timeline: http://goo.gl/VzBnT) They say that they do this for the lulz. Even Law-enforcement agencies are finding it difficult to contain Anonymous. Logic or the lack of logic behind these acts is difficult to discern – too many social and psychological factors are involved.

Kevin Rosse



Kevin Rosse is one interesting individual – he's like the Paris Hilton of the web. He started off as the founder of Digg, and is currently its 'Chief Architect'. He also hosts a show "The Screensavers" on TechTV. Apart from this he has invested a lot in other successful companies. He is an example of a new breed of serial entrepreneurs who penetrate and exploit that most exclusive of social networks, the ranks of Silicon Valley's once and future promising personalities.

What runs the Internet?

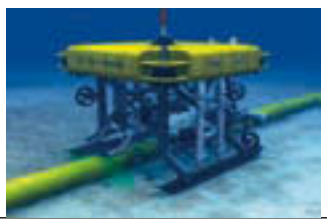
First to come up are the Tier-1 networks which reside much closer to the backbone of the Internet and have peering arrangements among themselves sharing data among themselves, followed by Tier-2 networks which have peering agreements among themselves but still require transit at certain points in the network. It is from here that our ISPs enter the Internet. And then there are the root name servers, which convert human-readable addresses to IP addresses, there are 13 such servers present across the United States. They are controlled by ICANN is the authority for domain names, and also manages the IPv4 and IPv6 name spaces. It is primarily in place to maintain operational stability, manage day-to-day operations and nurture competition. Apart from these there are the millions of routers, switches, proxies and servers that propel this behemoth.

No Platform, No Worries

Web runs everywhere and anywhere, from supercomputers to hand-held devices everything can access web. Perhaps logical step that the Internet can take is become the platform itself. This sounds a bit farfetched and we seem to be a bit out of our depth but we kid you not. Ofcourse by platform here we mean a base on which something else can be built. Work has already begun in this direction, there is the Boot2Gecko Project started by the Mozilla Foundation which is trying and building an OS ground up using open web technologies. Then there are projects like Webian, Chromeless, Chromium OS and Web Intents which redefine the manner in which we perceive and use the web. Think of this as your entire OS running natively inside the browser.

Deep sea cables

You don't really think of them until a ship's anchor breaks one of them, but deep sea cables are what keep us connected via the net. They handle a whopping 99 per cent of world information traffic (satellites are responsible for the remaining 1%). Each cable supports a bandwidth of 7.1 terabits per second. Laying and maintaining these cables costs several hundred million dollars. India is connected to the world by 13 such underwater cables.



XXX

If you didn't catch the drift by now, you are better off skipping this section. Inspite of being a taboo subject, Porn is considered to be one of the many reasons that has made the Internet what it is now. Porn sites get about 28,258 views every second. The industry in its entirety is worth about $4.9 billion, and the entire world is fixated on getting vicarious pleasure. An estimated 12 per cent of all web sites on the Internet are pornographic. Currently, a debate rages over whether they should operate solely on the .xxx domain, thus making it easier to block and protect young children from porn. Whatever TLD is chosen, porn is not going anywhere!

The Berners-Lee Legacy



The year is 1989, a brilliant young computer engineer going by the name Tim Berners-Lee, joins one of the world's most premier science research institute, CERN. Our protagonist appalled by the condition he witnesses there; data is everywhere but it is stored in myriad documents but in different ways. He decides to devise a system to let people access the document in the same way anywhere on the network. After months of prodding, pleading and toiling on the then latest system – NeXTSTEP, he was finally able to deliver the first web server and web browser. The rest is history. In act of supreme madness/benevolence he gives his invention, the "World Wide Web" away to the world for free. Sir Berners-Lee has since setup and spear-heads the World Wide Web Consortwium(W3C), and continues to shape the future of the web.

LAMP

LAMP is an acronym for Linux, Apache HTTP Server, MySQL and PHP (or sometimes Perl or Python). Widely regarded as the most viable configuration as fas as servers go. This can be perhaps attributed to the fact that Linux as a platform is more stable, secure and compatible with other server-oriented platforms like SPARC and BSD. MySQL and PHP combined can deploy any high performance web applications. Though sometimes they are replaced by PostgreSQL and Perl/Python depending on the application being deployed. What makes this open source web server architecture a favourite among web developers, is it's infinite hackability(pun not intended), extensibility and flexibility. No wonder , 65% of the websites on the Internet run on some permutation of the basic LAMP stack.



50 gms

This is the weight of the Internet at any one moment, according to Vsauce, a sci/tech YouTube channel. Vsauce arrived on the figure by calculating the weight of all the electrons in the electricity required to make the internet work – assuming 75-100 million servers supporting the internet, and not including the home PCs running web servers.

Oscars of the Internet

It doesn't have ladies draped in sequins, traipsing down the aisle with shorter gentlemen in tag, neither the histrionics nor the scale. All the same, the Oscars of the Internet, or the Webby Awards as they are better known as perhaps the most prestigious recognition that a web site can get. Given out by the International Academy of Digital Arts & Sciences for excellence on the Internet including Websites, Interactive Advertising, Online Film & Video and more recently Mobile content. The awards are famous for the fact that they limit the acceptance speech to 5 words though many have exceeded that. One of the more famous is Al Gore's speech when accepting a Webby Special Achievement Award – "Please don't recount this vote". It has also received some flak for the pay-to-attend (winners and nominees also) and the pay-to-enter policy; which the management defends saying that it keeps the pressures subjected by sponsorship at bay.



Quora

Founded by two former Facebook employees, Quora is a question-answer web site which is created, edited and maintained by the users. What sets it apart from a myriad other such web sites



is exclusivity and insistence on the participants using real identities. Quora users can upvote or downvote an answer, thus determine its existence in the discussion. It was lauded by nearly all the major newspapers and blogs to be the next best thing on Internet. Apart from occasional ranting by users against the moderators who seem to wield god-like powers and egos to match, it is an excellent place to satiate your curiosity.

Memes

Memes seem to come up when there is a combinashun of lots of spare time; wiiyrd pictures or videos and even moar wiiyrd coments and capshuns. A common thread is the complete and uttr anihilaeshun of the English language wii know. From photoshopped pictures of cyoot cats zleeping in bed or eating ur foodz, icanhascheezburger, hotdogz, orly! owlz, aybabtu, rage comicz, pedobear, and duckrolz. Memes are two numerus to count and more keep surfacing every day, but who givez a damn as long as there r cyoot catz and lulz degrading your language with their ignorance and apathy.



Anand Lal Shimpi

This name is synonymous with hardware components reviewers. Anand Lal Shimpi started reviewing hard-



ware components from an age of 15. How about these figures from a CNN profile on Anand Shimpi: If just 1% of AnandTech's monthly visitors were guided to a $300 purchase, that would amount to more than $60 million in yearly sales – this was in 1999, when he was just 17. His web site Anandtech.com is a respected name in the hardware components circles.

HyperTransport

HyperTransport in the simplest terms is a high speed interconnection link between processors or processors and chipsets. It is a bus that was created in 2001 by a consortium of which NVIDIA, AMD and Apple are a part. The main function is to provide a high bandwith and low latency, point-to-point interconnect with the ability to read and write at the same time. Back in 2001, the maximum bi-directional bandwidth was 12.8 GBps to the present avataar HyperTransport 3.1 which supports 51.2 GBps. The HyperTransport (HT) bus has many interesting features in its present form such as Link splitting – which allows each HT link to be split into two and Hot Plugging – which allows HT devices to be installed or removed with the bus still running in the background.

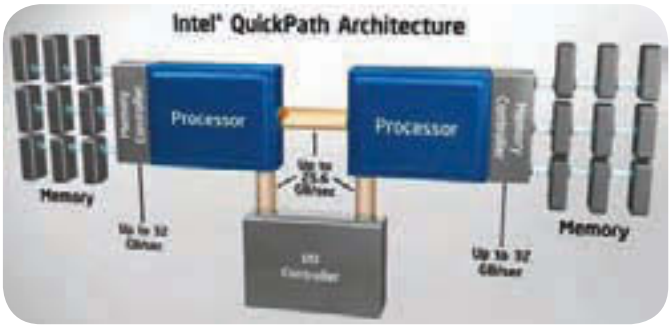
Computex2011

If there is one event which both hardcore component-junkies as well as manufacturers look forward to, it has got to be Computex, which happens annually in Taipei sometime in June. Here are the stats from this year: 5 days, 125,000 attendees, 1,800 exhibitors, 5,300 booths, 10,000 plus hardware ICT products!! Many flagship products from many companies are launched here and you also get to see those quirky concept designs such as the Danshui concept board that is seen above.



Quick Path Interface

Intel's Quick Path Interface is a high speed point-to-point link between the processor and the chipset supporting a high degree of parallel movement of data. It was first introduced in 2008 for the Intel Core -7-9xx processors on the X58 chipset. Its bi-directional bandwidth is 25.6 GB/s. It supports 3 channel memory and 2 x16 combinations for PCIe 2.0 slots. Intel just introduced the QPI 1.1 this year with some improvements.



29

These are the number of form factors a motherboard can sport based on the use cases. The popular ones we know are ATX, XL-ATX. E-ATX, MicroATX, Mini ITX, but there are many many other form factors such as DTX, NLX, BTX, LPX, etc each having a different area of use.

Intel

From its first commercially available microprocessor - the 4004 to the present day Core i7-3960X, Intel has raised the bar with each year, sticking religiously to the Moore's law. Tick-tock is a terminology popularised by Intel in the tech circles and it does not mean the sound of a clock. Apart from making the fastest desktop processors, Intel also has exhaustive research labs conducting R&D across various disciplines.



Kingston

A name quite popular as far as memory goes, Kingston is a US based company founded by two Taiwanese men - John Tu and David Sun. As far as pure numbers go, it is the number 1 producer of DRAM memory modules and USB drives. Couple of years ago it got into the SSD market and its HyperX line of SSDs are super impressive. Also this is the only company that we have seen in India, that markets its SSDs on bus stands, communicating about such a niche product to the masses, which is quite laudable.



RAID

Redundant Array of Inexpensive Disks is an arrangement of attaching multiple drives together to act as one logical unit. RAID 0 configuration also known as Striping is meant to improve HDD performance, as it combines two or more drives and splits data to be written to these drives such that each drive gets equal parts. Data transfer or data fetching is faster that that on a single drive, but if one HDD fails, then it is the end of the world as the (other non redundant) data on the other drive is useless. RAID 1 is all about data redundancy here at the cost of speed. Your data is replicated in each of the two drives, so that even if one drive fails, you have the other drive with all the data. Capacity of a RAID 1 drive will be as big as the smallest drive. There are other combinations as well such as RAID 5, RAID 10, etc.

DIMM

Dual-Inline Memory Module also known as DIMM are a series of RAM chips mounted on a printed circuit board which together makes them memory module that i used in PCs. DIMMs use a 64-bit data path. Number of pins on the DIMM goes from 72-pin to 244-pin based on the type of RAM. Also the notches on the memory modules differs based on the generation ie. DDR, DDR2, DDR3 and so on. One major difference between single inline memory modules and DIMM is that the latter has separate electrical contacts on each side of the DIMM slot unlike the former which is redundant on both sides.



eSATA

A very popular port on most mid-range and high end motherboards, the eSATA or external SATA port is a variant of the SATA port which allows you to exploit the speeds of a SATA connection without having to open your cabinet. As far as raw speeds go, eSATA is faster than USB 2.0, FireWire as well as slightly faster than USB 3.0. It was introduced in 2004 and has been seen on many external storage drives since. The bridge that generally converts the SATA and power ports (of the laptop HDD within an external drive enclosure) into a USB 2.0 or FireWire port tends to bottleneck the data transfer speeds to the USB 2.0 or FireWire standards.



MacWorld 2008

Before this event, notebooks were bulky, with more stress laid on function than form. On a January day in 2008, Steve Jobs in his inimitable style stated, "There is something in the Air". On the table nearby there was an envelope which had a package which is now popularly known as the MacBook Air - the worlds thinnest notebook. Apple did not compromise on the size of the keyboard or screen size or the processor. The bar for slim notebooks was raised so high, that it's only now that competitors are making such notebooks.



Naitoh Arimasa

Popularly known as the 'Father of the ThinkPad', Naitoh Arimasa joined the product engineering team at IBM in 1970 and later on moved to Lenovo in 2005 after the takeover. We had the opportunity to interact with him earlier this year and were told some fascinating stories behing ThinkPad's design philosophy. Sample this: The shock-absorbing feet found on the ThinkPad notebooks have been inspired by cat's feet. Reason being cat's feet provide a two-way shock absorption. An owl's feather structure inspired the tips of the blade of the internal fan of ThinkPad notebooks which results in quieter and cooler notebooks. Read the complete story here: http://goo.gl/XTqrZ



Overclocking

Overclocking is a process which allows you to make your processor run at a faster clock rate than what it is rated at, so that you can derive more performance out of your processor at no extra cost. Overclocking does come with its share of risks as you are making it run at a faster speed. If done with patience and care, overclocking can boost your system's performance quite a bit, for free.

Also, nowadays most of the processors come with lots of fail safes. For instance, if you have overclocked your system beyond its threshold, then it will throw up errors or hang or cause artefacts to appear in your games. These are signs that you should reduce the processor clock speeds. While overclocking you need to keep four things in mind – the base clock speed, the multiplier, the latency timings and the temperature. Base clock speed is the speed at which the processor runs and when multiplied with the multiplier, will give you the core clock speed of the processor.



You can also overclock your RAM memory modules and graphics card. Easy overclocking of the GPU is possible nowadays thanks to utilities such as MSI Afterburner 2 which allows you to change the core clocks and memory clocks, thus making the graphics card run faster.

5,000,000

That is the total number of characters that could be contained on the first ever hard drive which was produced in 1956 called the IBM 350 Disk File. There were 24 platters each of 0.61m diameter which made up this drive.

William Hewlett

One half of the duo who founded HP from their garage in Palo Alto in 1939, William Helwett was an electrical engineer from Stanford university. Their first successful product was a



precision audio oscillator and it just went on expanding from there. That expansion, atleast one division – and a major one at that – came to a halt this year. HP anonunced that it would discontinue its tablet business and sell off its PC division – despite being the #1 in 2010.

Voltage Modding

Voltage Modding is taking mere overclocking to a whole new level, by tweaking the voltages of components. Increasing voltages by a miniscule amount and stress testing the system, allows you to make your processor or graphics card run at a faster speed than its reference speed. A side effect of voltage modding, is generation of excess heat as when you make processors run faster, there are more transistors working faster, which generate more heat. Modding Graphics card is whole different ball-game, involving stuff such as soldering a resistor onto the PCB of the card. Needless to say, if you indulge in voltage modding, you automatically void the warranty on the card.

X79 Boards

Intel just launched its high end SAndy Bridge E series CPU in mid-November which will replace the older generation Intel Core i7-9xx extreme edition processors. It also brings a change of chipset from X58 to X79. Be prepared for the onslaught of X79 chipset based boards in the market, and of course a lot of reviews in Digit regarding the same. X79 boards house



the LGA2011 socket and have four dual channel DIMM slots, that is eight RAM slots. It has support for upto 2 x16 PCIe configurations which will please the gaming community.

1,400,000,000

That is the number of transistors that is expected to be housed in a space of 22 nano meter by Intel in its upcoming Ivy Bridge line of processors next year. To give you a perspective, the width of the human hair is 100,000 nanometers

SandForce Controller

Solid state drives are slowly but surely gaining momentum thank to prices coming down. Their performance though faster than a mechanical HDD, depends a lot on the type of controller they house, as this is the heard of an SSD. SandForce controller is a name to reckon with in this field. Infact our Zero1 Award went to an SSD sporting SandForce SF2281 controller. Some of the top SSDs in the market sport the SandForce controller.



Jumper

Anyone who has handled motherboard will be familiar with those tiny little plastic sheaths that cover some protruding pins on the board, which help in closing the circuit



for current flow. These are known as Jumpers and they are a very important accessory on the board. The most common jumper most of us use is the clear CMOS jumper, which tends to reset the BIOS to previous stable state. You also have jumpers to adjust voltages or adjust speed of memory, etc based on the motherboard.

LN2 Cooling

Overclocking is a way in which you can tend to heat up your processor to very high temperatures. While the mere mortals stay content with stock coolers, the slightly advanced user go for water based cooling mechanism, using radiators to drive away the heat from the CPU. But then comes a class of enthusiasts, who are professional overclockers, who go even beyond water cooling. Liquid Nitrogen (LN2) has a boiling point (yes, boiling, not freezing) of -195 degrees centigrade which is way beyond the freezing point of water. This quality of LN2 makes it ideal for using as a coolant in overclocking sessions, as it allows you to overclock to very high levels as temperature the



CPU falls below -100 degrees when it comes in contact with LN2. Recently the AMD 8-core processor FX-8150 was stretched from its base clock of 3.6GHz to over 8 GHz by overclockers using LN2 cooling.

Bulldozer

AMD came out with its FX series of processors with the flagship FX-8150 having



eight physical cores. The codename for this line-up of high end desktop processors is Bulldozer. It is built on the 32-nm process. The basic building block called the Bulldozer module comprises two integer cores and a shared floating point core. Four such Bulldozer modules make up the eight cores. You can read more about the architecture in our November 2011 issue and read a review on the FX-8150 in the Bazaar section for this month.

Foxconn

This Taiwan headqaurtered company is the world's largest contract manufacturer of electronic components. It has factories based in Shenzen, China and the Czech Republic. With famous clients such as Apple, Intel, Motorola, Nokia, Dell, etc, one would get the impression that people working here are set for life. But that is far from the truth. The year 2010 in particular was marred by as many as eighteen suicide attempts by employees with fourteen resulting in death. The deceased were aged between 17 to 25 years. It put a huge question mark on the type of working conditions of the employees and raised a huge furore globally. According to labour activists the deaths have been blamed on the military-style management where employees are forced to work overtime, have very little entertainment options.



UEFI BIOS

Since the last three decades there had been no changes in the BIOS interface. But last year we got to see the first boards sporting the Unified Extensible Firmware Interface BIOS, popularly known as UEFI BIOS. UEFI BIOS is a complete overhaul of the computer's boot enviornment, and it sits between the system's firmware and OS. Thanks to the graphical user interface, you can use the mouse in the UEFI BIOS, which was just not possible in previous BIOSes; surf the internet or even backup your drives. Most top brands except Gigabyte had switched to the UEFI BIOS this year.



DDR3-3467?

Just this month Corsair announced that it had set a new world record with overclocking memory frequency of 1733.8 MHz (DDR3 - 3467) using Corsair Dominator GT CMGTX6 extreme performance DDR3 memory by champion overclocker Jake 'Planet' Crimmins.

Y cable

Ever noticed USB drives having a single interface on one end which splits into two at the other end? These type of cables are called Y-cables. In most cases one of the two cables provides additional power. Sometimes its also called a power Y cable.



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Thunderbolt

Imagine this scenario: Transferring a full HD movie in under 30 secs. You may think that we are talking of the future. Just a minor adjustment - that future is here. Formerly known as Light Peak, the Thunderbolt is an interface to connect peripheral devices to the computer by the extension bus. Intel developed the technology and it was commercially available in the Apple MacBook Pro this year. The Thunderbolt cable can carry data, video, audio and power in a single connection. Each Thunderbolt port on the MacBook Pro also provides about 10 W of power to connected peripherals. In fact the MacBook Pro's only feature one mini display port which is also used as a Thunderbolt port. It takes data transfer speeds to dizzying heights. With a theoretical speed of 10Gbps, it is blazing fast. Add the fact that it is bi-directional in nature, that means it can receive and send data simultaneously at this speed. That effectively means that it is faster than USB 3.0, eSATA, FireWire. Bottlenecking with present generation devices is a given as SATA 3 port max out at 6 Gbps. Intel initially had used an optical interface for data transfers, but later on switched to copper wires as it reduces production costs and most vendors still use electrical connections. The optical fiber cables are under development, but they will not carry power for now and Intel plans to use them only for lengths longer than 3 metres.

80.3 per cent

is Intel's market share for the third quarter in 2011. Although this is slightly lower than its last years' share of 80.6 per cent, the overall shipments of processors had increased by 5 per cent this year. Eighty per cent is a huge number and just goes on to show the hold Intel has over the processor market.

Gordon Moore

Anyone remotely interested in computing will at some point of time have heard of the famous Moore's Law which goes on to state that, "the number of transistors that can be placed inexpensively on an integrated circuit doubles approximately every two years." This was stated by Gordon Moore, co-founder of Intel, way back in 1965. Gordon Moore co-founded Intel in 1968 and was named its Chairman emeritus in 1975. Just when Moore's law was being threatened thanks to difficulties in packing in more transistors in less space (at the same time keeping the leakage current, power consumption and heat issues at bay), Intel announced the Ivy Bridge platform earlier this year. The Ivy Bridge processor will use a tri-gate transistor which makes use of a 3D fin in the silicon chip for improved switching.



Pimp My Case

Case modding is a whole culture in itself wherein hardware enthusiasts make quirky aesthetic design changes to their chassis. At the most simplest level you can cut out the side panel and add an acrylic sheet making the innards visible. Of course, you will have to invest in LED lights to make the interiors visible. Some case modders are so adept at this art, that one glance at the modded case will not look like a computer chassis at all. Some types of mods include: Windows mod - no this has got nothing to do with the operating system of the same name, but involves doing something with the side panels (most likely, the left hand one); Lighting mods involve going wild with lighting around or within your case. Cooling mods which have a more functional aspect than just plain aesthetics, most commonly indulged in by enthusiasts who will stretch their processor prowess to its limit.



Zettabyte

One Zettabyte = 10^21 bytes whereas One Terabyte = 10^12 bytes. We are already consuming exabytes of information. In fact a study done by Messrs George Gilder and Bret Swanson from the Discover Centre predicts that by 2015, US internet traffic would be counted in Zettabytes. This data will comprise of movie downloads, VoIP apps, online gaming, and cloud computing. Read more here: http://goo.gl/Sql5p



How long till we have a 1 Zettabyte drive, we would hazard a guess of a decade atleast;)

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How to have a perfect Twitter account



Ever since Twitter has become the trend in disseminating information every pseudo hipster on the street seems to have one and only one objective in life - how to increase my follower count? We understand that we all have an inherent need to be popular and meet more women as we go about our lives and the perfect place to do so on the web right now seems to be Twitter. There are a few things which makes a Twitter celebrity profile, implement the pointers given below and soon you'll have an account erupting with happy bunnies high on LSD

Following : Follower ratio

It's important to always keep your following and follower balance in check. A good ratio is 6 : 1. Follow one profile for every six followers you get. This means you're super cool and people need to be around you to get in the zone. First thing that visitors see on your profile is how many people follow you.





Your display picture

Having baby or cat pictures as your DP is so passe. Keep a picture with an attitude and this doesn't mean that you need to be a douche to do so. Keep it classy, have a look on your face which shows interest and disinterest at the same time. Pictures of tattooed skin seemed to have worked wonders.

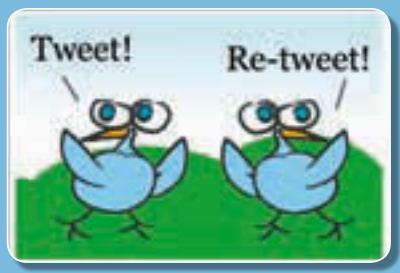
Hobbies

Even if you don't do/ like certain things in life start doing them. Number one is to have a photo blog, showcase pictures of lawn chairs and their shadows, live tweet every English Premier League match (remember not to support any team). Also attend rock concerts and tweet pictures.



Tweet/ Retweet

Tweeting random crap would only get you somewhere but not towards your "ultimate goal" Throw in intellectual tweets every once in a while. Quote personalities like Lennon and Andy Warhol. Retweet and reply to only a select few. If you mass reply you lose the charm of exclusivity. Be choosy when retweeting a tweet.





Twitter Bio

Your twitter bio is what makes or breaks your profile. Keep it short, funny and witty. If you've come on Twitter with an intention to stalk the neighborhood chick mention that. The Twitterati like things explicit, raw and out in the open.

Last but not least

A meh attitude in life won't help in the long run. Be compassionate during incidents like terror attacks and help as much as you can by spreading info which never reaches its true audience. It will get juggled around in the pseudo circle where you belong but you'll be retweeted and thanked many times nevertheless



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Is Google+ dead?
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University of Washington scientists are working on contact lens technology to use contacts lenses as projectors **http://bbc.in/vvj1fR**

Top 3 comic books of all time



Alan Moore's Watchmen

Everything great that has to be written about the *Watchmen* has been done and dusted. What more do we say, apart from it being a multi-layered story and characters set to a drawing and narration style which inspires artists till today. This is pure genius. The story is set in an alternate universe and showcases the year 1985. With the help of super heros America has emerged victorious in all of its past conflicts and as a result we witness a totally different world in the story.

Frank Miller's Sin City

Setting the industry standard in making a panel-by-panel rendition of a comic book into a movie, Frank Miller set the pace in the graphic novel genre. *Sin City* happens to be one of his most celebrated works which made high-contrast black and white style of drawing a rage.

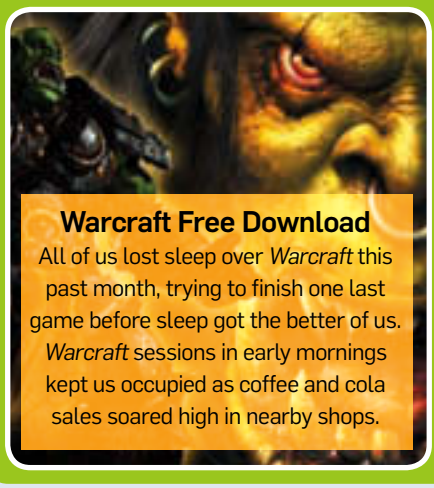


The Death of Superman

In a day and age when shock value seems to work the best for business and media moguls an early 90s edition spoke of the death of Earth's greatest hero. This made comic book lovers rub hands in perspiration making the issue extremely popular. This issue is preserved by comic books fan boys as a prized possession. Who would have thought that Superman of all super heros would die.



How we unwind



Warcraft Free Download

All of us lost sleep over *Warcraft* this past month, trying to finish one last game before sleep got the better of us. *Warcraft* sessions in early mornings kept us occupied as coffee and cola sales soared high in nearby shops.

Why this Kolaveri Di?

We were hooked onto this song towards the end of closing. When we first watched it, its view count read 3,000 and now it is over 6.5 million. It was widely covered by every leading daily,



spoken about on TV, a certified internet hit, probably India's first ever crossover viral video.

Epic rap battles

Eminem battling it out with Naz may be considered epic by a few but nothing beats Dumbledore rapping his guts out against Gandalf or Darth Vader's against Hitler. These battles are truly epic and that's all we've been watching last month.



digit DIARY

The biggest update of the season is that our beloved Jayesh (BigDaddy) got hitched this month. Big shout out to him and his missus, and best wishes for their journey into the unknown – most of us are yet to get there still. Just to keep things interesting, everyone started telling ghost stories, with Jayesh leading the pack. His never-ending stories were quite a thrill, but nothing so far trumps Raaabo's chilling supernatural experiences. Also, especially for the December issue, Raaabo also brought some mattresses for the team – at least we don't get backaches from sleeping in chairs now. Most of the team did end up sleeping in office for days – some say it's because the new mattresses are more comfy than the ones at home – either that or the regular QIII sessions... although we do know for sure that Vijay was so spooked by the ghost stories, there was no way he was going home alone at night.

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Check out this thread below where two of our active members are deep in discussion about Elders Scrolls: Skyrim
Curated by distinguished forum members such as ICO, Topgear, The Sorcerer and others, you're bound to get some accurate suggestions on the forum. Head over to the forum by visiting this link www.thinkdigit.com/forum





Head over to http://www.facebook.com/thinkdigit for some tech gyaan distributed by our enthusiastic community. Here are two such excerpts where one is dealing with career guidance and the other one well just needs some buying advice





Audio jargon – demystified

"The latest high-impedance, low-sensitivity headphones under review were difficult to drive and necessitated an amp, but the sound signature was devoid of any colouration; neither bright nor warm, just neutral. The soundstaging is phenomenal and the entire frequency range is reproduced accurately from deep lows to extreme highs".

Did the preceding paragraph make sense to you? If sentences like these have been driving you up the wall ever since you can remember, read on to quickly understand audiophile terminology used in most reviews and write-ups.

Impedance: Impedance is the resistance against electrical flow. In the world of audio gear too, it means the same thing. Measured in ohms, it basically denotes how difficult it is to move the speaker's driver. By and large, high-impedance systems require more power to drive them, hence requiring an amplifier to enhance the signal.

Sensitivity: Another often seen term in the specifications of audio systems (speakers or headphones) is sensitivity. Sensitivity is the sound pressure level measurement (loudness) taken at a distance of one metre by applying one watt of power. Therefore all other things being constant a high-sensitivity audio system will require less power to sound as loud.

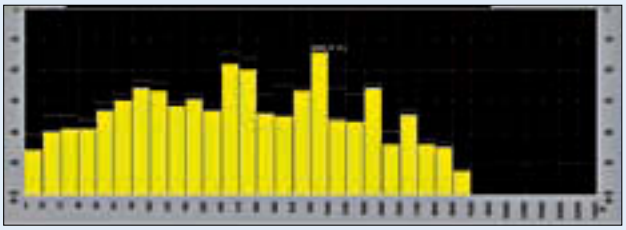
Frequency response: The entire audio signal coming out of a speaker belongs to different frequencies of the audio spectrum. The audio range of speaker systems (and the human ear) lies in the range of 20 Hz to 20,000 Hz or thereabouts. The frequency response of a speaker system denotes the range of such frequencies that it can reproduce effectively.

Highs: This term denotes the reproduction of frequencies belonging to the higher end of the audio spectrum. Generally, anything above 5,000 Hz is classified as high frequency. Certain instruments and vocals pitches – such as violins, female vocals and cymbals – belong to this higher side. If a headphone has good "highs" it will be able to reproduce these sounds well.

Lows: Bass notes or "boom" like sounds belong to the lower frequencies in the audio spectrum. These are frequencies measuring 20 Hz to 350 Hz. Kick drums, bass guitar and baritone vocals are low frequency or lows.

Mids: All sounds in the range of 350 Hz to 5,000 Hz. This range brings the overall feel of the audio track. What people commonly refer to as treble starts from mids and extends into the highs.

Neutral: A neutral sound signature is one that reproduces all frequency ranges appropriately without emphasis on any particular range like bass, mids or highs. Such audio systems are considered true to source.



Fiddle around with various frequencies in your media player's Equaliser to understand lows, mids and highs

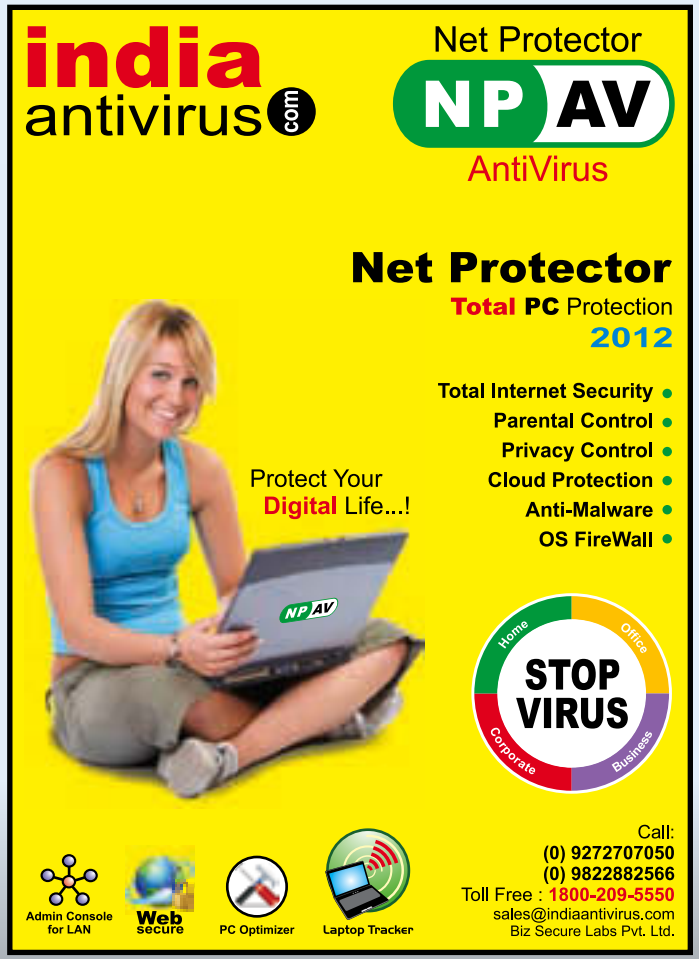
Warm: A warm sounding speaker or headphone is one that is a little partial towards the mid frequencies. The sound produced hence is a little mellow and soft.

Bright: A bright sound signature is one that is produced by audio systems with a proclivity for high frequencies. The sound produced as a result is vibrant and hence called bright.

Colouration: Any system in the audio chain that adds emphasis on a particular frequency range is said to produce coloured sound. And the process is called colouration. Colouration may sound pleasing but it's a deviation from accuracy.

Soundstaging: This is a pure listening term and the efficacy of it can be debated. Basically, it denotes the perception of depth and positioning of particular sources of sounds such as instruments and vocalists. Some headphones and speaker systems are thought to reproduce or create the illusion of distinct positions of sources within the spacial environment.

Dynamic range: Defined as the ratio of the loudest and softest sound that an audio system can reproduce without distortion. Again the ratio is measured in decibels.



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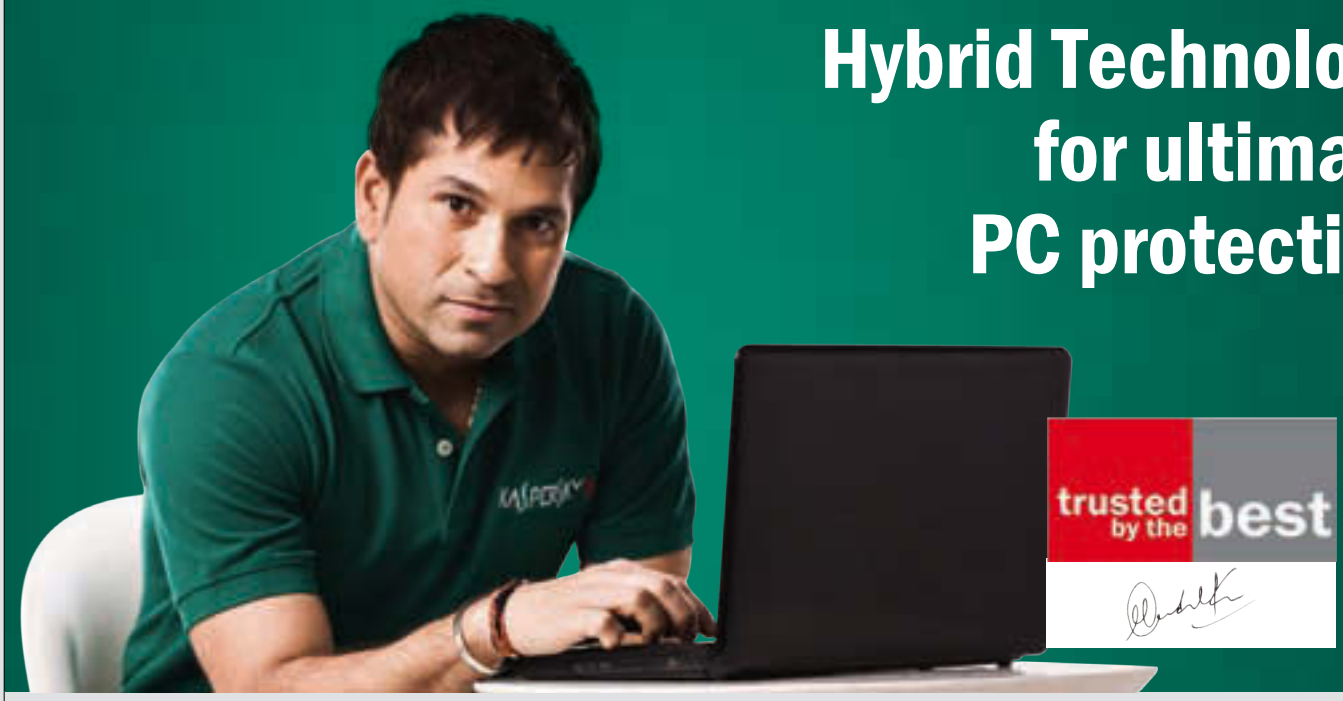
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