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The bias of buying

Surprised? Believe me, we all were too. This is probably the first time in years that Robert is officially on leave and not writing the editorial. He's often said before, "Jobs you take breaks from, passions you can't". This time though, he has a new preoccupation in his life that he's equally passionate about – his newborn baby boy. The proud daddy even sent us his son's specifications in a group chat to the team. "Boy, 3.11kg. Healthy," it cryptically said. Now that you guys know, please send him the cheesiest congratulatory messages you can think of. My life expectancy will be drastically cut short as a result but still, totally worth it!

Now moving on to filling some really big shoes.

Every year around this time, we do a buying special in anticipation of the Diwali shopping frenzy. To aid you in your quest of buying the right gadgets, we give you the most up-to-date buying advice for all of the product categories we cover. In theory, reading it will save you your hard earned cash. But are we creatures of pure logic when it comes to buying technology? Do we go with cold hard facts? Those are some questions I wish to address here.

The human mind is a powerful machine. But within its infinite wisdom and teraflops of processing power are lodged several logical fallacies and cognitive biases that make us irrational, bungling idiots. Simply put, there are glitches in our reasoning abilities that lead us to make rash decisions and arrive at the wrong conclusions.

Let me explain.

Being in the technology space, all of us here at Digit constantly get queries from within our friend circles seeking buying advice. "Should I buy XYZ phone?" or "Is XYZ tablet practical for my mom?" As Digit readers, most of you must be deemed gadget gurus in your own right within your groups, and may find yourselves at the receiving end of similar questions. When such queries come to us, there are times when we need to tell our friends, "For your needs I think you should go for PQR". And the moment we do, they look deflated. Forlorn, they persist, "But isn't XYZ good?"

What you have right there is 'confirmation bias' – a tendency to seek out only those perspectives that reaffirm our pre-existing views. Your friends have already made up their minds. All they want you to do is agree. We do this in our day-to-day lives as well, seeking out only those cliques with whom our views match perfectly. During the hunter-gatherer days, this behaviour had an evolutionary advantage; but today, in the concrete jungle, when it trickles down into buying decisions, it's simply your mind playing tricks on you.

Another one of these tricks is the 'status-quo bias'. This bias has its roots in the tendency of people to oppose change. We're creatures of routine in our regular lives and even when it comes to buying objects, we do the same things over and over. Familiar products are preferred over highly recommended products. I've come across so many people lapping up Windows-based Nokia phones simply because they associate it with Nokia in its good old days, believing perhaps falsely, that their phones can still be run over, dropped and shattered, and be assembled back to work like the 3310.

Fanboys – another cognitive anomaly – rave and rant in rabid support of a product or company even when facts point to a different story. Researchers have found that ownership of a product (and in turn its associated ideology) adds emotional value to things – i.e. the 'endowment effect'. The 'choice supportive bias', on the other hand, makes your mind justify your irrational purchase so as to not cause cognitive dissonance, in this case, buyer's remorse. If you know anyone who has invested in \$1,000 audiophile-grade headphones, ask them if they think their purchase was worthwhile. Chances are they'll defend their stand a little too aggressively. That's classic choice supportive bias.

You're probably wondering why I'm dispensing this short lesson on psychology. The point is: no matter how much buying advice you read, if you're not aware of these biases your subconscious has built up over an entire lifetime, you'll be prone to making the wrong choices. Knowing about cognitive biases and fallacies has been known to mitigate their effects at least to a certain extent. So the next time you're drawn to a particular brand or product, analyse why that behaviour is being triggered. Once you do, and realise for example that you want the iPhone 5S simply because it's a status symbol, by all means go ahead and buy it. Just don't try to justify your purchase as a purely logical one.



Siddharth Parwatay Features Editor siddharth.parwatay@thinkdigit.com

"The point is: no matter how much buying advice you read, if you're not aware of these biases your subconscious has built up over an entire lifetime, you'll be prone to making the wrong choices."

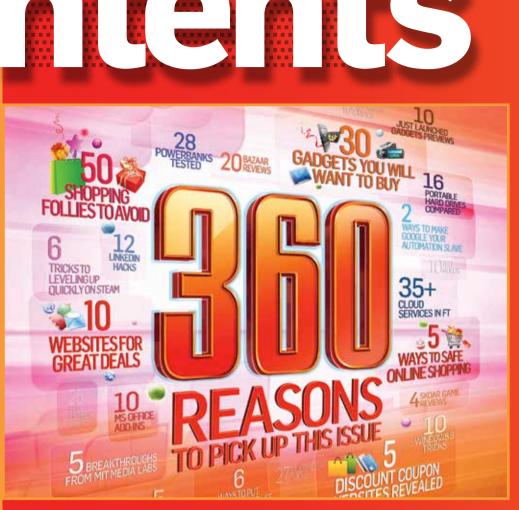
Liked or hated this column? Write in to *editor@thinkdigit.com* and let me know your thoughts.

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CORSAIR OBSIDIAN 900D An enthusiast's wet dream. A really

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Disclaimer

For every Digit contest, there will be only one winner, unless specified otherwise.

In the event of a dispute, the Editor's decision shall be final.

PRODUCTS REVIEWED THIS MONTH

Bazaar

HP EliteBook Revolve 810 Sony Xperia Z Ultra, DSC RX100 II Lemon A4 Full HD WickedLeak Wammy Passion Z Plus HP Envy TouchSmart 14 Nokia Asha 501, Lumia 925 Spice Coolpad Mi-515 Cooler Master QuickFire TK Tt esports Poseidon Dell Inspiron One 2020 AIO Huawei MediaPad 10 Link Seagate 600 SSD 240GB Corsair Obsidian 900D Calibre ULTRA'Go Mini power station MSI GTX 770 Lightning QuickHeal Total Security for Android Logitech G510s Cygnett Lavish Connect Folio keyboard

Quad-core Tablets test

Simmtronics XPAD Mini Zync Quad 8, Quad 9.7, 10.1 ASUS Nexus 7 1st Gen, Nexus 7 2nd Gen Iberry Auxus Core X4 3G Ceros Revolution tablets 9.7 Huawei MediaPad 10 link

Power Banks Feature

Artis PB 2800, PB 2200, PB 5600 Asia Power AP 2200B, 2200A, 4000A, 2600A, 5200A Aviig AV-PB-PI-46RD Cooler Master Power Fort 5600, 6600 Croma CRC A0039 CyberPower CPBC2200, CPBC10400 Eveready UM22, UM52, UM08 Luxa2 P3 2500 Maxx PBS 26 Nokia DC-16 PNY Power 80A Portronics Pico II 2200, Pico Emergency Power, Mojo Charger LED, ChargeX MPS5600 Zebronics ZEB-PG4800, ZEB-PG7200, ZEB-PG2400

Portable Hard Drive Test

ADATA DashDrive HE720, HV620, HD710 Buffalo Ministation Thunderbolt HD-PATU3 HP SimpleSave P2050B, P2100R Seagate Slim SRD0SP0, BackupPlus SRD0SP0 Toshiba S-3600A, DTP105, DTP110, v73600-C, V63700-H Silicon Power Armor A15 Transcend StoreJet 25M3

Western Digital MyPassport Ultra



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Let's wake ourselves up and gather the tools

of tech to change the future of our great nation. Join The Revolution!



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

Consumer mote

Expert buying advice and some awesome offers



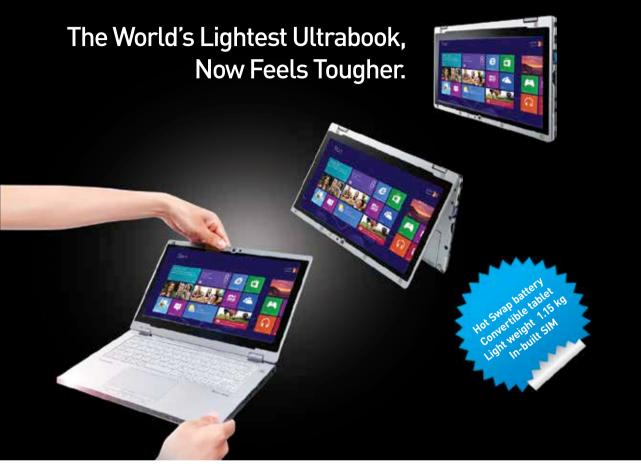
Community of software programmers who

enjoy writing code and want to grow their career in software development



Panasonic recommends Windows 8 Pro.

Panasonic



Panasonic Ultrabook CF-AX2 – The world's lightest tablet convertible Ultrabook from the Panasonic Toughbook Range.

With the unique 360° flip-over hinge design and light weight, Panasonic Ultrabook makes it ideal for professionals on the go by converting the traditional laptop into a touchscreen tablet. Now get the best of both the worlds in a stylish and sleek design.



Enter



BB exits consumer market The troubled smartphone maker will lay off 4,500 employees and focus on prosumer and enterprise customers only http://dgit.in/16mefid

☑ Hello Team Digit, how are you guys? I've been reading Digit for 5 years now. Last month's issue was really interesting. Digit always delivers the best technology content and most of it is seriously useful to me, especially the DVDs.

I'd like to point out a few things here which I think can be made better. Firstly, the little snippets of information that you give at the top of each page are really helpful but many times it's really disappointing to see the same fact being repeated in two to three pages. Also, if you could replace the sections' page numbers in the snippets with some more facts it would be really nice.

Secondly, I've always seen you guys focusing on Windows or iOS or Mac or Android but always kind of ignoring Linux platforms such as Ubuntu. I'm an Ubuntu user and it's disappointing to see that your content always caters to those platforms only. Please publish a Fast Track on Ubuntu and reserve some space on your DVDs for Linux platforms.

Besides this, I find everything else really helpful.

Asit Khanda

Yes it appears we've not been showing enough Linux love lately. Thanks for the suggestions. We'll definitely bring them up at our next edit meet. About the snippets, we'll try our best to not repeat them. Siddharth

ĭ I went to buy EFY magazine from a local vendor in July and luckily saw a Digit edition with 'Fast Track to Mobile and Laptop Hardware'. I quickly grabbed it. Since I'm an Embedded Hardware professional and have worked on Intel mobile platform that Fast Track issue was so helpful. You may not believe that I used to carry that booklet around for quick reference. It has become like hot property among my colleagues who've been asking to borrow it from me for the past 2 months. Going through some of the articles is helping me gain quite a lot of knowledge. There are people who prefer hard copies rather than a digital copy. For such people, Digit is one of the copies to grab from the market. Frankly, before this I never had an idea about this magazine



and now I'm a big fan of Digit. While writing this letter, I have a 'Fast Track to PC Hardware' in my hand – yet another favorite for hardware guys.

After going through the magazine over the past two months and having also grabbed a copy this month a few days back, I have a few suggestions:

- 1. Why don't you provide more coverage from the hardware point of view which is of high interest to us hardware guys?
- 2. Why don't you dedicate a page to comparing latest technologies (Example: IPS v/s AMOLED displays, comparison of cortex processors, etc). In Fast Track's July issue, I saw this but it was not easily understandable. A detailed comparison would help us a lot.
- A separate page for some of the Indian start-ups, especially in embedded systems technology.

I came to know through a reader's letter in the September edition that Digit published Fast Track issues for Windows 8 and Intel architecture. How can I get these Fast Track issues?

Dharanidhar Chatrathy

Thanks for writing to us. It always feels nice to get feedback from new readers. All of us at Digit are glad you liked the last two FTs. It reaffirms faith that nuts-and-bolts hardware guys are not a dying breed in today's age of tablets and smartphones.

- 1. We definitely plan to cover more hardware in the upcoming issues.
- You'll find many of these comparisons in Digit 101, we do have refreshers now and again as well.
- 3. We're certainly planning a story (maybe cover story) on Indian start-ups.

If we have those FTs in stock you can order them from the Fast Track Book tab at http://www.thinkdigit.com/store

Siddharth

☑ When I received the magazine, I quickly opened it and saw a question mark on the cover page and thought there must be something awesome in this month's issue. As expected I was right. "How many form factors will we experiment with before arriving at the perfect computing device?" - This question touched me. It must have involved very deep thinking, for sure. The cover story was awesome, and I loved the way you described everything in detail. The "True Potential" section was really good. Please keep up the good work. Tips and Tricks were helpful. And this is the first time I'll say that Tried and Tested was well organized; the laptop's pic was just below its name and the reviews were also separate compared to when I first subscribed to your mag. I think the reviews must be

ASUS recommends Windows 8.



ASUS desktops - Leading in satisfaction with reliability

Based on the PCWorld USA 2012 reader survey of tech satisfaction, reliability and service.*



Source: http://www.pcworld.com/article/2020964 *Condition apply. All specifications are subject to change without prior notice. *Tested with ASUS CM6830 (ASUS P8H61-M motherboard, Windows? T Home Basic, Intel[®] Core[™] is CPU, NVIDIA[®] GT530 graphic card, 4GB RAM*, 500GB HDD, DVD-RW), *ASUS Power Pack - a removable UPS (Uninterruptible Power Supply) that can also be used as a portable battery, *This service provides 22GB free web storage for 3 years available for Windows 8 models only, ASUS 1 Year Service Warranty average price is ₹2000 calculated.

Disclaimer: "Some apps sold separately; vary by market".

Android 4.4 - KitKat

Say "no" to Key Lime Pie! Google has officially partnered with Nestle in order to bring the next Android 4.4 ... KitKat. http://www.android.com/kitkat/



Blaupunkt's new subwoofer The GTb 8A claims to deliver superior bass in your car audio system. It's 11-inch deep and has a 75W RMS amp built in

LETTER OF THE MONTH

☑ Hello, this is my first mail to you. I'm a 15-year-old guy. Due to my ability of reasoning and understanding of any given system and tech gadgets, my friends recommend that I read your magazine. I invested my entire birthday money on buying three issues of the magazine. You guys are really fabulous.

While I could understand most of the articles the rest just went over my head. Could you please explain any one topic related to the fundamentals of computer (hardware and software) in each of your issues? I know your magazine is read by big company owners, great programmers, innovative hackers and tech geeks, but believe me it's also read by people like me. If you can,

please start a different section for this.

I noticed you guys debating over packaging issue. Well, it's not that tough. If you know where the tapes are and you cut them from in between with the scissors you can save your precious material. I would recommend using coloured glittery tape that won't camouflage. Also, you can use a harder plastic which has dents and shapes in which you can fit things. It would be better for

separate every time, it helps a lot. Another change I'd like to see is the placement of the specs sheet at the end of the article which builds interest in reading. This is my opinion, but there must be a reason for doing this that I may not be aware of. The rest was great. Please continue doing the same. All the best for the future.

Harsh Khurana

We're always happy when our articles get out readers' brain cells working over time! It's why we write in the first place Your suggestions have been noted and we'll see what we can do in the future. We're always open to good fedback. So please don't stop writing to us with fresh opinions and feedback whenever you feel like it. *Anirudh* 3 reasons: it won't cause any wear and tear, it would be good to show off your products and it's a cheaper plastic. After all, your magazines are essential for everyone who wishes to do something in the tech world.

And last but not the least, if you ever wish to give me a T-shirt, I'm ultra-slim and 5'4" in height. I hope that you're a

bunch of young guys and will consider me as your friend.

Yash



ΩU

We're always glad to hear from new readers of the magazine. Our Digit 101 section was specially created to cater to the needs of readers like you. In this section we talk about technologies at a very basic

easy-to-understand level. And don't worry – as with anything in life you'll pick it up soon enough. All you have to do is keep reading and soon you'll be able to appreciate those difficult "going over my head" types of stories in no time. Lastly your not-so-subtle hint dropping has worked. We've selected your letter as the letter of the month! Enjoy!

Do keep writing in.

Siddharth

Hey Team Digit. God only knows how long overdue this letter is. I, as a part of an ever-growing community, have leeched off of the plethora of tech whiz at Digit, since...forever, I guess. But never once did I take out the time to thank your prodigal team for their stupendous contribution this magazine has made through its impeccable effort in wheeling out the best and the latest in techno-porn. And so here it is: Thanks. For being able to invoke the same amount of inspiration, thought and wide-eyed awe and wonder in, once, the bespectacled geeky lonesome schoolboy and, even now, the computer engineer bored to death at his pre-templated (not a word, I know) desk job. Honestly, with office, it's not been possible to keep up with Digit recently and that's a very sad

predicament for me personally and I plan to change that.

Till recently I was using the Xperia P and honestly I was tired of the same old Android look and feel. Apart from the apps, it wasn't very interesting. And hence, exploring the ecosystem I chanced upon Windows Phone 8 - A very unlikely choice for me, but now I'm slowly falling in love with the smooth-flowing, almost seductive, interface, its simplistic transitions and its stellar performance. And judging from the rise in sales in Windows mobile devices this spectacle from Microsoft is steadily amassing quite a following. It's hard to imagine any other platform replacing Android (especially in this part of the world) as the new behemoth in this mobile OS market. But Windows Phone holds all the promises. And now I've decided to go for Nokia Lumia 920 and make the transition to something new. I looked under every nook and cranny for anything to do with the OS and how it works, and was stumped when I couldn't find anything in Digit. I'm not aware if you've done any issue on WP specifically and so as a future WP user, I request you to please come out with a cover story about WP 8. Not just from the user's POV, but also what it means and takes to be a developer for this platform and the tricks and tools of the trade. You might have done a similar thing already and if you have, my sincerest apologies for this backdated request. If not, I look forward to witnessing the spin Team Digit puts on the story of the mobile platform that I've fallen in love with.

Keep up the good work.

Partho

Glad Digit could be of service in your formative years. As for WP8, it has its plus points, but everyone on the team who's used it has come away disappointed. While the devices themselves (920 included) are excellent, the number of issues we've encountered with the platform are too numerous to list. That said, we've published complete tutorials and the relevant SDKs in our DVDs in the past. You can back order any of our previous issues (if in stock) at www.thinkdigit.com/store.





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DG-BG4100N

JIGICARE

Know more about this product at www.digisol.com

Did you know...

Earth's outer core spins westward and at a slower rate than its inner core which spins eastward. Here's why: http://dgit.in/ldAYOc6



Play Doom via piano A team of researchers rigged a piano to act like a keyboard for the game Doom where each key equated to a keyboard command http://dgit.in/lb4knUV

Buzz: Do the Social Vibe!

The parodic slogan of GTA IV's Whiz Wireless notwithstanding, last month saw some major feature updates and news from the big names in social networking

Study shows links between social media use and selfesteem

Researchers from the Media Effects Research Laboratory have conducted a study which reveals how users' profiles on social media can hint at feelings of selfesteem and self-determination.

According to the study, people with lower self-esteem are more concerned with what others post about them on Facebook and continuously monitor their Facebook walls for updates and posts. It was also found that people with high self-esteem added more information to their personal profiles on the social networks.

The study covers 225 students in a South Korean university, and is based on how the students filled in their Facebook profiles. The researchers also studied how the students edited material that friends linked to or posted on their walls. Users with both low and high selfesteem spent plenty of time building their online profiles.

Researchers found that individuals with higher self-esteem spend more time adding information about their families, education, work experience etc., while those with lower selfesteem continuously monitor their wall and delete unwanted posts from other users.

S Shyam Sundar, Professor of Communications and Codirector of the Media Effects Research Laboratory, Penn State said, "The types of actions users take and the kinds of informa-



tion they are adding to their Facebook walls and profiles are a reflection of their identities. You are your Facebook, basically, and despite all its socialness, Facebook is a deeply personal medium."

He added that this information can be useful to developers, who want to attract customers with more customisable walls and profile pages. He stated that users with both high self-esteem and low self-esteem see the social network as an extension of their self-identities and would be willing to pay for additional features on Facebook.

Facebook users have uploaded over 250 billion photos since launch

Facebook, along with Ericsson and Qualcomm, has released a white paper as part of the Internet.org project. The paper revealed that Facebook has seen a quarter of a trillion photo uploads since the website's launch.

The report on Internet.org revealed that the social network sees more than 350 million photo uploads daily and has a user base of 1.15 billion. In total, Facebook users have uploaded a staggering 250 billion photos since the site came into existence. Facebook added that users share 4.75 billion "content items" per day that generate more than 4.5 billion Likes, and over 10 billion messages daily.

This number is way ahead of Facebook-owned Instagram which sees 55 million uploads daily and has a total of 16 billion uploads till date. Flickr also sees only 3.5 million photo uploads daily and has a total of 8 billion photos till date.

Facebook has recently added more features like auto-

tagging, hashtags and sharing which has made the site more user friendly. The shared photo albums feature was launched in August.

This new feature allows multiple users to upload images to a single album. The album creator can provide access to as many as 50 "contributors," who in turn can each share up to 200 photos, with up to a maximum of 1,000 photos in each album. The album creators can choose to retain control over the album or share rights with other contributors via the album settings. Right now, only three privacy settings are available for users: public, friends of contributors and contributors only.

Facebook rolls out APIs to help news organisations utilise user comments

Facebook has rolled out a set of tools that will help media and news organisations to tap into user comments and display them online or on TV.

The new tools will allow news organisations to integrate Facebook conversations in realtime and will cover data from the past few months as well. Facebook has announced additional tools – Keyword Insights API and Public Feed API – that will increase the social networking giant's position as a relevant topic simulator as well. These tools are expected to roll out in September.

The new Keyword Insights API will allow news organisations and media outlets to



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aggregate the total number of posts that are mentioned for a specific term at a given time. The public feed API will gather and dsplay public posts. A Facebook spokesperson stated in an email that if a post is not public it won't be shown. She compared the feed to similar services provided by Twitter.

She added that if someone doesn't want a Facebook message to be used in the news feed, users can select the proper audience for the message while posting it. Facebook added that the access to the APIs will be sent to a limited selection of news organisations such as CNN, NBC's Today Show, Slate, The Economist and Sky TV in the U.K.

Google+ now allows embedded posts

Google+ has finally launched embedded posts following in the footsteps of Facebook and Twitter. With the new embedded posts feature, users can grab relevant posts and add them to their websites to make a point. The embedded feature supports texts, images and media posts.

The feature will allow site owners to add their public Google+ posts to their web pages. They'll be given the codes needed (including a JavaScript snippet and an actual embed code) to integate posts into their sites. The embedded posts are interactive, so visitors can comment on or even follow the posts. The feature will be available on the public posts and can be accessed from the dropdown menu present on every Google+ post.

Along with embedded posts Google has also launched authorship to Google+ sign-in. The feature will allow users' work to be automatically connected with their profiles once they sign in with Google+. The feature has been launched for WordPress and Typepad, and will soon be available for About.com, WikiHow and The Examiner.

Google+ Director of Product Management, Seth Sternberg



An example of how to embed Google+ posts

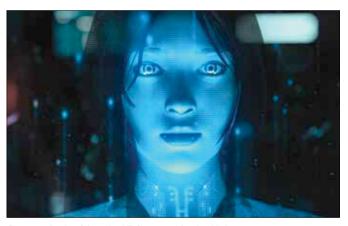
stated, "So if you sign in to WordPress.com with Google, for instance, the articles you publish will now be associated with your Google+ profile automatically. With this association in place, we can look for ways to surface your info when it's most relevant. For example, today users may see your name, picture and/or a link to your Google+ profile when your content appears in Search, News and other Google products."

Microsoft's 'Cortana' to take on Siri and Google Now

In response to Apple's Siri and Google Now, Microsoft has plans to thwart its rivals with its ability to pull in notifications, weather and location info, calendar details, and the best part – Cortana'a ability to access the phone's Bluetooth capabilities.

The brainchild behind Cortana is said to be Bing's Satori engine – a colossal knowledge database, named after the first step on the Buddhist path to enlightenment.

Senior Microsoft officials have been constantly hinting that the software giant has been working on such an assistant for a while now. Earlier this year, CEO Steve Ballmer wrote: "Our machine-learning infrastructure will understand people's needs and what is available in the world, and will provide



Cortana is the friendly AI featured in the Halo games

first-ever fully-featured digital assistant – Cortana.

Early leaks of the much anticipated Windows Phone 8.1 (rumored for a launch early next year) OS included an app listed as "zCortanaApp" – the "z" in the name indicating that it was a test build. Cortana is the codename for Microsoft's voice-controlled, adaptable digital assistant, and is claimed to be much smarter than Apple's Siri.

Microsoft is already in the process of testing Cortana's prowess. Testing is being done on parameters such as the information and assistance. We will be great at anticipating needs in people's daily routines and providing insight and assistance when they need it."

While the first signs of Cortana have been appearing in Windows Phone 8.1, ZDNet's Mary Jo Foley mentioned that eventually, Cortana will be the core experience integrated into future versions of Windows, Windows Phone and the Xbox.

Those of you who've played the Halo games on Xbox will recognise Cortana as the AI character that has the ability to learn and adapt.



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Web Watch Twitter goes on an acquisition rampage; buys MoPub and Trendrr. Catch this and other updates in this month's Web Watch.



App Watch Check out these five cool apps that every mobile device out there must have. You won't regret it.

Flagships of the near future

From the grand unveiling of the iPhone 5S to the launch of the Galaxy Note III and the Xperia Z1 in India, it looks like the battle of the next gen flagships has begun

Sameer Mitha sameer.mitha@thinkdigit.com

Apple launches the iPhone 5S and 5C

Apple finally lifted the veil off the iPhone 5S and the smartphone hasn't surprised anyone in terms of the features on offer thanks to the rumour mills.

Apple has upgraded the power package on the iPhone 5S, with the new A7 chip, which is claimed to be twice as fast as the iPhone 5 in terms of the CPU and graphics performance. For the first time, the phone will see a 64-bit architecture, with iOS 7. The OS is backward compatible with 32-bit apps because the other devices getting this update



Apple iPhone 5S

are not compatible with the 64-bit environment. The A7 chip also supports OpenGL ES version 3.0, which will allow for even higher quality graphics. There's also the new M7 Motion Coprocessor that gathers data from the accelerometer, gyroscope and compass to offload work from the A7, for better battery life.

The iPhone 5S adds a feature called Touch ID, which is Apple's name for the fingerprint sensor capabilities. The sensor is built into the home button itself, and Touch ID uses a laser cut sapphire crystal, together with the capacitive touch sensor to take a high-resolution reading of your fingerprint and provide better analysis from most angles. Touch ID can also be used as a secure way to approve purchases from the iTunes Store, App Store or iBooks Store.

The rear of the smartphone has an 8MP iSight camera and showcases a 15% larger active area on the sensor - the larger f/2.2 aperture with 1.5µ pixels aimed at better low light performance. The camera is accompanied by the new double LED flash, which Apple calls True Tone. It consists of two LEDs - one with a cool colour tone and one with a warm tone. The iPhone 5s also includes a new Burst Mode, Slow-Mo video with 120 fps, a new FaceTime HD camera for better low-light performance and audio-only Face-Time calls with iOS 7. The new



Apple iPhone 5C

Panorama mode would clock up to 28 MP and the exposure will be adjusted automatically during the pan, instead of being stuck with the preset values that may not work well with the differing environments in the same shot.

The iPhone 5S supports 13 LTE bands, the maximum among any smartphone currently available. Additionally, the iPhone 5S has dual-band 802.11 a/b/g/n Wi-Fi support for up to 150 Mbps transfer rates as well as Bluetooth 4.0.

Apple claims that the 1440mAh battery, with iOS 7, will offer 10 hours of talk time on 3G networks, up to 10 hours of web browsing on Wi-Fi and LTE networks and up to 8 hours on 3G networks, and up to 10 hours of video playback and up to 40 hours of audio playback.

Moving on to the iPhone 5C, where C stands for colours, not cheap. The smartphone sports a hard-coated polycarbonate body with a steel-reinforced frame inside for a solid, sturdy feel. It's available in bright colours: blue, green, pink, yellow and white. The iPhone 5c carries forward most of the internals of the iPhone 5, but is thicker and heavier - 9mm v/s 7.6mm - and - 132g v/s 112g. Other specs include a 4-inch Retina display (640 x 1136 pixels), Apple A6 chipset, iOS 7 out of the box, 8MP camera, 100Mbps LTE connectivity, Wi-Fi a/b/g/n and Bluetooth 4.0. Like the new iPhone 5S, the iPhone 5c also supports 13 LTE bands.

To complement the all-new iPhone 5c design, Apple has created a line-up of soft, matte, microfiber-lined cases. These silicone cases will each feature unique circular patterns allowing the iPhone 5c's colour to show through as well. There are five iPhone 5c colours and six cases to choose from. Apple wants you to mix and match for dozens of fun combinations. Each case is priced at ₹1,804.

Sony launches Xperia Z1 for ₹45k, SmartWatch 2

The latest ₹44,990 flagship phone sports a 5-inch Full HD

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Significant rise in malware targeting online banking, online snooping by cyber agencies

Mobile watch



Sony Xperia Z1

display. It runs Android 4.2 Jelly Bean OS and is powered by 2.2GHz Qualcomm MSM8974 quad-core processor along with 2GB of RAM. The Xperia Z1 has 16GB built-in storage and supports additional storage of up to 64GB via microSD. The smartphone comes with a 3,000mAh battery.

The Xperia Z1 comes with the company's 'G Lens' with a 27mm wide angle and bright f2.0 aperture, a custommade large 1/2.3-type Exmor RS CMOS image sensor for the phone with 20.7MP and a BIONZ engine for mobile image processing.

In terms of connectivity, the Xperia Z1 supports 3G, Bluetooth 4.0, USB 2.0, Wi-Fi and Wi-Fi Hotspot functionality, and NFC. Sony is offering free access to movies, songs and TV shows (under the Sony Music, Sony Entertainment and Sony Pictures brands) with the new smartphone. Sony is offering 8GB of data free on Vodafone, free accidental insurance for six months and EMI schemes with the Xperia Z1.

Security Watch

and other stories.

The company also introduced its QX10 and the QX100 'lens style' cameras, which are priced at ₹12,990 and ₹24,990, respectively. The Sony QX10 sports an 18.2MP resolution while the QX100 has a 20.2MP resolution.

Sony has also launched the SmartWatch 2 in India that comes with the ability to handle phone calls (dial, answer, reject), send a command to the smartphone to take a photo, control presentations using the Presentation Pal app, control media playback on the phone and even read email when not connected to the phone.

Samsung launches Galaxy Note III for ₹50k

The ₹49,990 Samsung Galaxy Note III has a 5.7-inch Super AMOLED display with 1920 x 1080 pixels resolution. It's powered by Exynos Octa 5420 processor coupled with 3GB of



Samsung Galaxy Note III

RAM and runs on the Android 4.3 Jelly Bean OS. It has 32GB built-in storage expandable via microSD card slot, a 13MP rear camera with BSI sensor and LED flash as well as a 2MP front camera for video calling.

Blackhole sun

The supermassive black hole at the center of the

Milky Way Galaxy will soon consume a blob of gas

and begin to radiate energy at a tremendous rate.

The Samsung Galaxy Note III offers Wi-Fi, NFC, Bluetooth 4.0 and GPS with GLONASS support. It comes with Gesture, Accelerometer, Gyroscope, Proximity and Hall Sensors. The Note 3 has a plastic body with a leather-like back cover for a premium finish. The Android device comes with the multifunctional stylus. Samsung is offering the Galaxy Note III with special EMI schemes during the festival season.

The Samsung Galaxy Gear Smartwatch that we reported on last month is compatibile with Galaxy Note 3 (as well as Note 10.1). It has a 1.63-inch Super AMOLED screen, 512 MB RAM, 4GB built-in storage and a 1.9 MP camera. It can make/receive calls and will show notifications from social media apps. Samsung says support for other Galaxy devices, including the Galaxy S4, will be added soon.

BlackBerry launches the Z30

BlackBerry has introduced its latest flagship smartphone, called the BlackBerry Z3O. Successor to the full touch Z10, the new BlackBerry smartphone runs v10.2 of the BB 10 OS and is powered by a dual-core 1.7GHz Snapdragon S4 Pro along with 2GB of RAM. The BlackBerry Z3O sports a 5-inch Super AMOLED display with 1280x720 pixels resolution and 295ppi. The smartphone comes with 16GB built-in storage and has an option to augment that via microSD.

The Z3O has a 2MP front facing camera capable of

recording 720p video and an 8MP rear camera with an f2.2 lens capable of shooting video in 1080p.

The BlackBerry 10.2 update brings a new Priority Hub feature, which allows users to manage all their conversations and notifications in one place. It also includes improvements to the audio of BBM Voice and BBM Video chats.

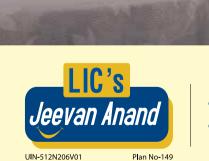


BlackBerry Z30

In terms of connectivity, the Z3O will support 4G LTE, dualband Wi-Fi a/b/g/n, Bluetooth 4.O and NFC. The BlackBerry Z3O smartphone includes a 2,880mAh battery, which the company says is the largest battery ever built into a Black-Berry smartphone.

With the launch of flagship smartphones, consumers are spoilt for choice – be it Android powered devices, iOS devices or even the dying BlackBerry. With the launch of the smartwatch as an accessory, you now have access to a secondary display to perform basic functions without removing the phone from your pocket.

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Web Watch

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Twitter Goes Big!

It was a pretty busy month for Twitter, the world's favourite microblogging site with the company buying two different start-ups that could help it expand its ad revenue stream and explore various avenues

Twitter buys MoPub – a mobile advertising start-up

Twitter has bought MoPub, a start-up focusing on mobile ad exchanges, in a deal estimated at \$350 million. Twitter is planning to use MoPub's technology to venture deeper into mobile advertising.

Senior Director of Product for Twitter, Kevin Weil said that Twitter also plans to use MoPub's technology to build real-time bidding into the Twitter ads platform so that their advertisers can more easily automate and scale their buys.

mopub

"MoPub's technology lets mobile application publishers manage their inventory and optimise multiple sources of advertising direct ads, house ads, ad network, and real-time bidding through the MoPub Marketplace," said Weil in a blog post.

Two major trends in the ad world right now are the rapid consumer shift toward mobile usage, and the industry shift to programmatic buying. According to him, Twitter sits at the intersection of these, and by bringing MoPub's technology and team to Twitter, they can further drive these trends for the benefit of consumers, advertisers and agencies. Twitter said that it plans to keep MoPub's mobile ad exchange running. According to MoPub CEO Jim Payne, there will be no major changes post acquisition. In a blog statement, he said, "It's important to underscore that our commitment to you, the publisher, will not change. In fact, it will be strengthened. Twitter will invest in our core business and we'll continue to build the tools and technology you need to better run your mobile advertising business."

Industry tracker eMarketer expects Twitter to earn \$582.8 million globally in ad revenue this year and nearly \$1 billion by next year. Twitter is already doing well in the mobile ads space and the MoPub acquisition will further strengthen the company.

Twitter acquires social data analytics company, Trendrr

Twitter has acquired social analytics company Trendrr to enhance its offerings in the entertainment industry. As a result of the acquisition, Trendrr will continue with its existing contacts but won't be accepting any more new business.

Twitter who's been recently seen moving into the TV, music, and entertainment industry is aiming to push its services to broadcast media companies as a way of amplifying audiences and increasing engagement. Trendrr will help Twitter to accomplish this by bringing in its analytic services and staff to the microblogging company. Trendrr also holds a US patent for technology involving a system and method for collecting and processing data through a communications network, awarded in September 2012. The financial details about the deal have not been disclosed.

Trendrr

Twitter confirmed the acquisition with a tweet, "Excited to welcome @Trendrr to the Flock! Will help us to build great tools for the rest of the TV ecosystem."

Trendrr's founder Mark Ghuneim commented on the acquisition, "Over the last five years we have led the way in working with real-time data and television, unlocking the power and value of engagement around TV and creating compelling media experiences around content. That's why we are excited to be joining Twitter's world class team, enabling us to realize bigger opportunities that drive better experiences for users, media and marketers – across Twitter and around the globe."

Twitter had recently tied up with MTV owner Viacom, to increase viewership and the conversation around live content as well as to include ad embeds into live streams to increase monetisation. Twitter has also partnered with microblogging platform Nielsen to create a Twitter TV Rating which tracks ratings using social media data.

Groupon India's discount sale on onions crashes website

Onions are an essential ingredient in every Indian household and its rising prices are having a major impact on the common





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Web Watch

CEO of the SEA The Syrian Electronic Army not the g

The Syrian Electronic Army not the great blue oceans. Turns out the leader of the infamous hacking unit is a 19 year old!

man. Groupon India recently offered a deal on onions at a discounted price of ₹9 per kg, an offer that was part of its daily deals. The price was so attractive it that led to a flood of traffic to the website, causing it to overload the company's servers and crashing the site. Groupon sold about 3,000 kilograms of onions, in just 44 minutes. More than 8,000 kilograms were bought by over 17,065 users.

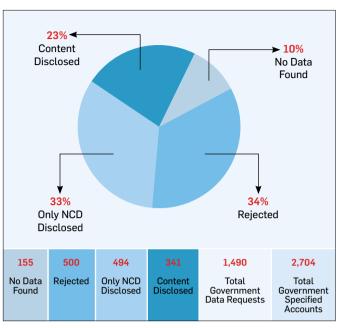
Onion prices have more than tripled in the past few months in India, selling at a price as high as ₹100/kg for some time recently. The depreciating rupee value has made matters worse and India has run into food supply shortages, resulting in dramatically inflated food costs.

Groupon advertised the deal in a tongue-in-cheek manner, with Ankur Warikoo, Groupon India CEO stating that the company wanted to sell the onions at a price that most of the users have completely forgotten about.

It was the first time ever the company had put onions on sale and the response, Warikoo said, was "overwhelming". He added, "This kind of onion price was last seen in 1999. The first day itself we ended up selling 5,000 kilos. Today [Friday] our site crashed completely for 10 minutes. It's been absolutely fantastic."

Yahoo: Indian govt. has made almost 1,500 requests for user information in 2013

Yahoo has published its firstever transparency report, which reveals the number of requests made by the governments across the world for accessing users' information. The report, covering the first six months of 2013, shows that Yahoo received a maximum of 12,444 requests



Government data requests

from the U.S. government. Germany followed with 4,295 requests. India is also in the list with 1,490 data requests.

Yahoo says it provided information including communications in Yahoo Mail or Messenger, photos on Flickr and Yahoo Address Book entries. The company also acknowledged sharing noncontent related information, including a person's name, location or Internet Protocol address. In case of India, Yahoo ceded 341 government data requests resulting in disclosure of some user data.

"At Yahoo, we take user privacy seriously and appreciate our role as a global company in promoting freedom of expression wherever we do business. That's why we're issuing our first global transparency report, which details government data requests from January 1 through June 30. We include national security requests within the scope of our aggregate statistics," said Yahoo in a statement.

The data, however, does not

include requests for data on Tumblr, which the company took over recently. Yahoo announced that Tumblr would issue a separate transparency report at a later date, and would issue its own additional reports on an ongoing basis.

Yahoo's latest report is part of the ongoing campaign by internet companies to promote transparency on the web. In the past, Microsoft, Google and Twitter have issued similar reports. Facebook recently released its first report on requests made by the global governments to access users' information.

Covering the first six months of 2013, ending June 30, Facebook's 'Global Governments Requests Report' revealed that the U.S. had made the highest number of requests (over 11,000) for information about users. India ranks second with 3,245 requests for information in the first six months.

The transparency report also comes in the wake of the recent revelations of data mining by the U.S. government. While the US government has faced criticism for its controversial PRISM program, the Indian government is also drawing flak for its efforts to pre-screen internet content.

In early August, Twitter revealed in its transparency report that India had sought to withhold a total of three tweets, of which one request was made by the government, and the others came from a court order.

With Edward Snowden's crusade against the NSA and the existence of PRISM, the agency's data collection and analytics program, going public, more and more users are pressuring companies to be forthright about their exchanges with governments around the world especially when it comes to information requests. As a result, we've seen more focus being put on transparency reports being released by companies such as Twitter, Facebook and Google.

When the privacy debated so much in public forums lately, the importance of these transparency reports cannot be underestimated. While speaking on the matter to VentureBeat, Electronic Frontier Foundation staff attorney Nate Cardozo said, "The benefit is pretty significant...with transparency comes accountability. The first step in any real democratic process requires that transparency." However, the U.S. government (at least) is fighting back against these companies in an effort to reduce the amount of information being revealed in these transparency reports. Companies such as LinkedIn, Google and Yahoo and possibly others have already initiated court proceedings against the gag orders issued by the U.S. government, which limit the information released to the public in the transparency reports.





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The next Google

Apparently a publicly owned search engine is within reach. Who will build it you ask? The NSA will. Read on to find out how: http://dgit.in/1b8w4tZ

SteamOS

Valve has announced a Linux based operating system that will let users play and stream games from their Windows and Mac PC to the living room

Apps for the lazy and the busy: Order food, book a cab.

Your smartphone can do a lot more than just entertain you with Angry Birds. We tell you about some apps that can make the routine chores a tad easier

Vishal Mathur vishal.mathur@thinkdigit.com

he smartphone you paid all that money for can actually do a lot more than entertain you with Angry Birds, Facebook and Twitter. There's a smorgasbord of apps that make daily chores a tad easier. For this purpose, in this section we'll help you discover some of the best apps that you can easily download on your smartphone.

FoodPanda

Available for: iOS and Android. Also available via web browser. Price: Free

This is an app that makes ordering food a piece of cake (no pun intended). Be it a dinner party hosted by you or just a lazy Sunday afternoon when you don't feel like cooking food yourself, FoodPanda India offers the easy way out - order food! The service currently links up with 1300+ restaurants across various cities such as Mumbai, Delhi, Bangalore, Gurgaon, Hyderabad, Pune, Panchkula, Chandigarh, Mohali, Noida, Indirapuram, Ghaziabad, Faridabad and Greater Noida.

From the variety of restaurants you can order from, pretty much all cuisines including Indian, Chinese and Italian, are well catered to so you can let your mood/craving decide your order. To place the order, you don't need to leave the service

- select the items you wish to eat, place the order and receive a confirmation SMS along with the estimated delivery time. The payment mode is Cash on Delivery, which we believe is the safest and the most convenient way of paying for anything that you would have ordered.

Very neat interface, but a better colour theme is something that a future update could possibly look at, because this red themed interface is way too bright. Irrespective of this, the app neatly shows the sub categories and the menus in good detail. The font style offers good readability, and for the restaurants that we checked, the prices are listed seamlessly in the menu. Special offers and schemes will show up from time to time. We were very surprised to find some "buy one pizza and

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| Pan Pi | zza - Nor | n-veg. | |
| Mia Pi | zza - Veg | F. | |
| Mia Pi | zza - Nor | n-veg. | |
| Stuffe | d Crust P | izza - Veg. | |

get one free" schemes on offer at certain restaurants, which aren't advertised when we walk into those joints to have a meal!

A must-download app for any foodie out there, who's too lazy to sift through dozens of menu cards!

Meru Cabs

Available for: iOS and Android Price: Free

This is the second task that we all find quite a bit of stress in completing - booking a cab. The Meru Cabs app simplifies the task. The app, currently available for Apple and Android devices, will soon be available for the Windows Phone platform as well. Booking a cab via the app is its basic function, which is added to by real value-adds such as vehicle tracking, emergency alerts and e-bills. Meru Cabs says that bookings made via the app are activated within a minute, and the confirmation notification is immediately sent. As soon as the car and the driver are assigned, you can track the vehicle on the map through the Meru Cabs app - good way to know when the driver may be getting delayed due to an issue on the route. Once the trip has started, the tracking feature is also enabled with real-time route information on the map as well as the estimated time of arrival at the destination, depending on the speed of the vehicle. The app also offers an In Case of Emergency feature



that lets you send a distress notification to the people you've previously already registered to be notified in case of an emergency. Throughout the application, the ICE Alert access shortcut remains on the topright of the screen, and Meru Cabs says you can use this even if you're not using the Meru service at the moment. Once sent, the emergency notification to the assigned contact will receive an SMS with the location details, and if the Meru Cabs app is installed on their phone as well, see the vehicle's location on the map.

All in all, we appreciate the safety aspect that Meru Cabs has added to the latest smartphone application, over and above all the convenience aspects. A must-download app, if you use the Meru Cabs service often. 🚺

GIGABYTE[™]



(intel)

inside

ORKING MIRACLES New 8 Series Ultra Durable[™] Motherboards



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Do e-cigarettes cause cancer? Now that many regions around the world are planning to go smoke free, e-cigarettes are the only option. Find out if they're safe: http://dgit.in/1gVfDyq

Too quiet for comfort? Looks like there is such a thing as "too quiet". Find out how silence can actually drive you crazy: http://dgit.in/shhh12

Latest apps that you must download

A new web browser for the iPad, Zomato gets a complete makeover and TomTom wants to guide you on the next drive around town...

Vishal Mathur vishal.mathur@thinkdigit.com

Coast by Opera

Till now, the only real web browser options for you on the iPad were the built-in Safari and the downloadable Chrome. However, the makers of the Opera web browser have thrown in the proverbial joker into the pack.

Coast by Opera, the name by which you will find this app in the App Store, is a free-to-download app which pretty much changes things up. The immediate change that you'll notice is in its design philosophy. Websites are treated like apps, rather than as web pages. You swipe right and left to do the "Back" and "Forward" tasks, within a website. By the way your bookmarked websites are displayed in a method very similar to how apps sit in iOS, the design change is clear. You don't open websites in tabs, but as stacks of cards, that can be accessed anytime through an icon on the bottom right of the screen. To close a website, you must swipe up a card. The address bar is on the home screen. The idea is to have the content take up maximum space on the screen. We loved the speed and the way the websites showed up beautifully on the iPad's screen.

However, quite a few times, Coast did freeze and the only option was to force close and



reopen the browser. An app worth downloading, if you aren't already using it. The slight compatibility issues will surely be ironed out with future updates.

Zomato v3.0 for iOS

If you haven't been using the Zomato app on your



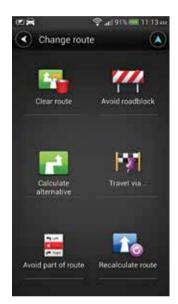
smartphone, you should do it more often. Undoubtedly, one of the best apps you can download if you're a social butterfly with the additional love for good food.

The update brings in a host of new features, including the one-touch access to all restaurants close to your location as well as the ability to search for restaurants based on a cuisine or even a particular dish. The redesign gives the app a much more modern and functional look. Zomato now also has the Featured Content tab, showing Top 25 restaurants, foodie leaderboard and the featured reviews. The one-tap ability to upload a restaurant pic or write a quick review adds to its functionality.

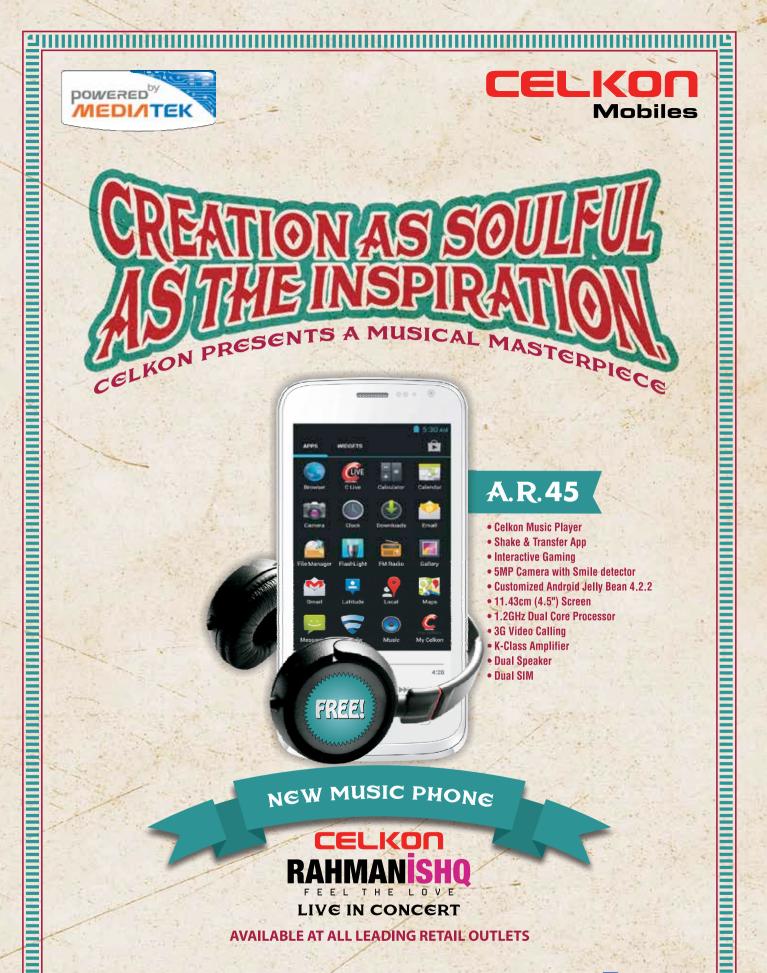
While the visuals throughout the app are of very high quality, most images still look like scans, and you'll need to zoom in more often than not to actually read.

TomTom India navigation for Android

We've often heard about GPS apps for smartphones not being "worth the money", because "Google Maps is more than enough". However, when you really get down to address and landmark search, nothing can match the performance of dedicated navigation apps. TomTom recently updated the



app for Android, with new features. The maps on the phone's screen look exactly like they do on a standalone TomTom Via device. Within Delhi, the navigation was very precise. The lane guidance is very useful. However, MapmyIndia's 3D maps honestly look better. A peculiarity we noticed: at certain times rerouting calculation took considerable amount of time, while at other times, it took about a minute at the max. A 20km journey saw the battery drop 14% and the phone became quite warm. All in all, you'll probably be lured into buying this app if you find yourself frequently travelling on unknown roads. If you decide to buy the app regardless, get it for ₹2050 on the Google Play Store. 📶



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/CelkonMobiles

Security watch

Elon Musk = Iron Man?

The real life Tony Stark just started building himself a real Iron Man lab. By the time you're reading this his new gesture based system will already be out.

The hero of the unlikely

Meet the man who invented modern probability. Andrei Kolmogorov came up with many theories including the "drunkard's walk" http://dgit.in/18mhmvu

Major Threat

Read on for some paranoia-worthy news such as a significant rise in malware targeting online banking and online snooping by cyber agencies that could lead to future leaders being blackmailed

Malware targeting online banking up by 29% in Q2'13

According to Trend Micro's Q2 2013 security round-up report, online banking malware saw a 29% increase from the previous quarter – going from 1,13,000 to 1,46,000 infections. The report expresses concern over the increased online banking threats and availability of sophisticated and inexpensive malware toolkits. The report also warns users about the increasing hazards of online banking.

"We found an online banking malware that modifies an infected computer's Hosts file to redirect a customer of certain banks to phishing sites. We also saw more Citadel variants (detected as ZBOT) targeting different financial service institutions. These malware not only target the big banks but also smaller ones, including those that exclusively cater to online banking customers. As predicted, cybercriminals carried out developments in malware distribution and refinement for existing tools," said Dhanya Thakkar, Managing Director, India & SAARC, Trend Micro.

As per the report, more online banking threats were seen in different countries this quarter, specifically in Brazil, South Korea, India and Japan. These highlighted the need for increased awareness of online banking security. Cybercriminals also came up with more diverse attacks that used various social engineering lures, single sign-on (SSO) and multiprotocol services, and blogging platforms for their malicious schemes.

The 'fakebank' malware spotted this quarter spoofs legitimate apps. It contains specific Android application package files (APKs), which it copies to a device's Secure Digital (SD) card. Using the APK files, the malware displays icons and a user interface that imitates

legitimate banking apps. This technique is reminiscent of PC banking trojans that monitor users' browsing behaviors and spoofs banking sites.

As predicted, cybercriminals have not generated completely new threats and instead opted to repackage old ones. The online banking malware volume significantly increased this guarter due in part to the rise in the ZeuS/ZBOT malware volume in the wild. Online banking threats are spreading across the globe and are no longer concentrated in certain regions like Europe and the Americas.

In the cyber criminal underground, the 'carberp' source code was leaked, making the creation of banking Trojans even easier for the bad guys. Meanwhile, other online banking trojan toolkits like ZeuS, SpyEye and Ice IX are already available for free, making it easier for any skilled hacker to obtain their source codes.

Cyber snooping by security agencies could threaten future leaders, says former Indian bureaucrat

KC Singh, the former Secretary of the Ministry of External Affairs, expressed concern over the recent revelations of data mining by the U.S. government. According to Singh, cyber-snooping might help in the war against terror but could be misused to blackmail others.



KC Singh, a former senior foreign affairs bureaucrat, spoke at the Hackers Conference in New Delhi

He was addressing 'The Hackers Conference 2013' held in New Delhi in August.

"Through legal means they (USA) are scooping and dredging up huge amounts of information. (They are) only looking at bad guys who are communicating with each other, but you can retrieve it (the information) many years later for blackmail or whatever you want," Singh said at the conference, held to discuss the state of global internet security.

He pointed out that the US government supports its surveillance programme, claiming it to be in the interest of its citizens and help check terror activity. But such capabilities could be used to blackmail others.

"Somebody in this room becomes Prime Minister of India 20 years from now. They will go into your background and scoop it up to see what were you doing, what were the mails you were exchanging. That becomes the very instrument (for) blackmailing future leaders of any country," Singh added.

The former secretary also called for global cooperation on cyber security related issues. He stressed the need for stringent international laws in this space.

Also speaking at the conference, Sri Lankan High Commissioner to India, Prasad Kariyawasam highlighted the need for developing regional capability in cyberspace. "We have to catch up with the world, but before that, challenges of the cyber world must be handled properly. Every aspect of our life in the times to come may be controlled by this (cyber) revolution. Unless you have proper defences you cannot go forward," Kariyawasam added.

The Hackers Conference 2013 saw the participation of the information security industry and the cyber community along with policymakers and government representatives for cyber security.

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Foreigner essentials

What things about your country should every foreigner know about? This quora thread has some brilliant answers: http://dgit.in/facta1

Humanity close to extinction

Groups like the Near Term Extinction movement and others are saying it's pretty much over for us: http://dgit.in/byebye1

Digital life

Microsoft Sculpt Ergonomic Desktop

This is the culmination of Microsoft's continued "research and investment in ergonomics." The Sculpt is a combo of an ergonomically designed keyboard and mouse. The keyboard has a split design, resembling a gradually rising wave that reaches its peak at the centre of the input device – this apparently lets you rest your palms and fingers in a natural, less stressinducing posture while typing. The mouse is taller than most mice you've used to reduce carpal tunnel build-up, and its angle is designed to keep the forearm at rest. It's available for a price of ₹8,086. Small price to pay for the future of your hands, right?



Ergonomic gadgets are cool. Your body will thank you!



Herman Miller Mirra 2

For a sedentary job, which involves sitting cooped up in an uncomfortable chair for hours, the new Mirra 2 from Herman Miller is a heaven sent. It's an improved version of the +10-year-old Mirra, and promises to provide just the right level of firmness and support to help a person's body adopt healthy postures. All sorts of posture, height and tilt-related adjustments are customisable, and a redesigned seat frame allows for removal of foam from under the seat. The chair looks elegant and free flowing but at the same time is built quite well, able to support anyone weighing upto 150 kg. Though your office probably won't be able to afford it (price yet undisclosed), why not get it for your home office?

Why we believe in ghosts

The subject of human consciousness has confounded researchers for years. But has a new theory finally cracked the puzzle? http://dgit.in/cogitoer

Piddle power From gunpowder to teeth whitener: The science behind historic uses of urine http://dgit.in/peepee1

Drool maal

Gunnars Glasses

With so many hours spent gazing into illuminated digital displays, think of all the strain your eyes withstand? Worry not, for Gunnars in the business of crafting fancy spectacles or glasses claims to be able to protect your eyes from ambient light. It does this through some wizardry deployed within its glasses – a sort of layer or film – that prevents excessive light from entering your eyes. Gunnars has glasses for all sorts of users, whether you're a gamer or an avid PC user spending a considerable amount of time in front of a monitor. We've had a chance to use these for several months, and our team's opinion is divided on its efficacy. But since they're available in several shades and frames, and not insanely expensive(starting at ₹4,490), let your eyes be the judge, eh?





Biomorph Personal Desk

Another trend in ergonomic design is working at your desk not just while sitting but also standing. And investing in something like the Biomorph Personal Desk is a smart way to work either way. It has a desk and a keyboard deck – two separate moving parts – that are about 4.5 feet wide and allow for height adjustment through a crank, depending on whether you're sitting or standing. The whole thing is built well with a reinforced steel frame, and the main desk surface can easily accommodate up to four PC monitors. The whole thing comes apart and is easy to assemble (a guide is included). This is for people who're really serious about ergonomics. Available for ₹1,21,037.

FootTime Foot Mouse

How about a radical new way to make use of a severely under-utilised pair of limbs while at your computer desk, and no we aren't referring to your hands. It's your legs we're talking about and introducing them to a whole new meaning of foot-tapping...on the Foot Mouse! Just slide one foot into the mouse "slipper" and the other on the "pedal". While one foot lets you point the cursor, the other interacts with six buttons and a scroll wheel. We expect this ₹8,712 device to have a learning curve, but to ease the initial difficulty some of its buttons are configurable as per your comfort level.



Cover story

VOI Δ SHOPPING SEA

Unsure of what to watch out for in the gadget that you're splurging on? Here's a handy check-list that should get you through your entire shopping experience unscathed

Team Digit

Touchscreen laptops are a mixed bag

Touchscreen laptops can be fun, they surely add a new dimension to the way you interact with the PC. But, not all touchscreens are the same in terms of quality, uniformity and response. In our testing experience we have come across quite a few touchscreen laptops with inconsistent touch-response and a whole pile of other issues; all because of an el-cheapo digitizer. Apart from the touch response, you also should be aware of the importance and real world usage of a touch screen for your work environment. If touchscreen is just a "nice to have" feature, we'd suggest you think

twice before paying a premium for a touchscreen laptop. Touchscreen adds marginally to the weight, reduces battery life and can be expensive to replace in case of an accident.



Aperture Range is as important as the starting Aperture itself

Did the salesman just show you a camera for 15K with an aperture of f/2.8? Did that get you incredibly excited, almost enough to flop that cash at the checkout counter? Don't. That f/2.8 will quickly change to a black-hole like f/4.8 (or worse) and you're better off trying to sketch the scene than photographing it at this aperture. Go for a camera which has a smaller aperture number printed on it, something like f/1.8-2.8.



Unlock issues: Ensure it'll work in India

Another thing you need to ensure when picking up a phone

from abroad is the compatibility with the mobile networks in India. A lot of websites sell unlocked phones, mostly originating from the U.S. Market. Before placing the order, double check with the seller/website about the global network unlock status of the device.



Do you need a camera on the tablet?

A common mistake people make while purchasing a tablet is that they look for a rear camera on the device. Are you really going to hold a 7-inch or 10-inch tablet in your hand to click a picture? What's more important is the front facing camera, you'll need it for when you're video chatting.



Quad-core on budget phone isn't the best

There are a lot of smartphones available starting at ₹9,000 that boast of a quad-core processor. Don't be fooled by them. Most of them are powered by a variant of the MediaTek MT 6589 chipset. Do your homework and check the device before purchasing. There are three variations of the chipset and you'll need to know which one your phone has



Calling something an "ultrabook" doesn't mean that it's an "ultrabook"

if you're even hoping for decent performance.

Vendors are playing tricks on consumers by taking liberties by launching heavy, clunky laptops under the ultrabook umbrella. For something to qualifu as an ultrabook, make sure it weighs less than 1.8kg, is running an Intel ULV processor (usually, the processor will hae the suffix, U). More importantly, the laptop needs to be slim. Really slim.



Forget Megapixels, check the sensor size

The worst is probably when a salesman will try to pawn off a camera to you by saying "sir, this has more megapixels, it will give you better images." You take that very camera and beat him with it, asking if the extra MPs caused extra hurt.



Platform loyalty doesn't pay

Just because you've been a loyal customer for years doesn't mean that you have to remain one for the rest of your life. Experiment, check out what's new. Also, it's very likely that many of your old favourites are now dead and dying brands.



Upgradable OS, OTA and certifications

Android receives annual updates as far as the OS is concerned. When purchasing a tablet, you should take a look at the manufacturers support for updates. If you're picking up a tablet, check if it supports OTA (Over The Air) updates or you will have a lot of trouble with it in the future. Little known manufacturers might not even be certified by Google, meaning you won't get access to the Play store.



Touchpads: Size isn't everything. Accuracy is.

Unfortunately. the size of the touch pad does not guarantee a good, responsive experience. In fact, buggy implementation (especially drivers) can cause serious problems (read: an erratic pointer),

especially when it comes to multi-touch gestures. Make sure you try the touchpad before purchase; play a game of solitaire, browse the web, see if you can scroll comfortable and so on.



AA batteries may be large, but they're life savers

Custom lithium-ion batteries are great because they're tiny, but guess what? You get rechargeable AA cells as well and if there

is one thing that is the bane of any photographer, that is running out of charge at the wrong (or right)

time. A slim, Li-ion battery might ensure that your camera is slim, but nothing beats the comfort of being able to purchase a fully charged battery off the shelf.



Just because you have a keyboard doesn't mean you have a PC

A common mistake made by people is that they attach a keyboard to their tablet and think that it will work like a PC. Sure you may get a better typing experience but when it comes to office applications such as spread-

sheet, nothing beats good old Windows or Mac. Plus, neither Android nor iOS is designed with a keyboard in mind. Of course, the Microsoft Surface might be a differnet beast altogether though.



"Complete ecosystem" is overrated

We have heard it so many times now - "You already have a Mac-Book? You must get an iPhone for

proper integration". These are the kind of statements that are fallacious and don't make any sense. And yes, this applies to whatever the geniuses may have to tell you about the other ecosystems - Google, Windows

etc. In fact, almost all manufacturers are doing there best to ensure that you have a seamless transition to their platform anyway. It's the apps that'll cost you when you switch platforms.



SSDs vs HDDs? SSDs win. Hands down

Given a choice between a 500GB hard disk drive or a 128GB SSD, we'd suggest you blindly choose the SSD option. The reason for this is simple, SSDs are more sturdy and more secure (TRIM) and

will dramatically boost your battery life. External HDDs are cheap and numerous, cloud storage and streaming also mean that you don't need to lug around that much data anymore.



Memory woes: You'll never get what's advertised

This is a very important point to consider, especially if you're planning on picking up a budget smartphone. The Canvas HD for example showcases 4GB built-in storage but lets you use a mere 1.77GB. Native apps that can't be removed and more importantly, the OS itself, will

hog the free memory. You'll need to do a mental check of your data needs, add 2-4GB to that and purchase a phone accordingly. Having a microSD expansion slot is always a huge bonus.



Don't get swayed by the Focus Points

If more focus points meant better focussing then we'd never miss a shot in. What really matters is the area covered by those focus points and 45 focus points in the middle of the viewfinder means nothing vs. 11 scattered points. Also, it's the number of cross-type points that matter since they're the ones that do most of the hard work.



Screen quality capacitive or resistive

The touchscreen is the most important component of a tablet as it's your primary way of interacting with the device. While purchasing a tablet, always make sure it has a capacitive display instead of a resistive one. There are a variety of grades when it comes to capacitive displays. The

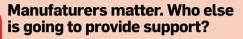
good ones are smooth to interact with whereas the lower quality ones feel rough and don't respond well. It's always best to try the device for yourself before purchase.



Understand what makes a camera good in low light

We asked salespersons across various big retail chains to show us cameras that were good in low-light and none of them really knew. Rule of thumb, don't trust the salesman. Read up about the various types of sensors and other factors that go into low-light photography.





Companies like Samsung, Sony, Asus and more are trusted brands and people find it easier to purchase products from these brands as the after

sales service is usually provided by the electronic store where you bought your device, or, these brands have their dedicated service centres. But when it comes to brands like Lava, Micromax, iberry, Wicked-

Leak and more, you may want to be careful before putting your money down. Make sure there is a service centre near you. One visit should tell you how user friendly the place is. We have heard instances where Micromax has great service in one city and really bad in another.



Slim and sexy with a catch

The current gen slim and light laptops and ultrabooks come with a promise of minimal compromise on performance, and technically they do offer a truck load of performance and battery efficiency for their size and weight. The reduction in price does come at a price though. Slimmer, compact machines end-up cutting down on the cooling system by reducing the fan size and the heat sink area, putting more pres-

sure on fewer components. The end result can be a laptop that will scald your legs annoy the hell out of you with a noisy fan. Of course, some laptops are better designed than others, but you'll need to check for yourself before you pick one up. Your lap will thank you.



Buying from abroad? What about the warranty?

There's something appealing in getting stuff from abroad at a discount. Remember that you might sacrifice the warranty though. Confirm with the manufacturer if you're worried.



Wi-Fi, gps? What's it doing on my camera?

These gimmicky features makes us want to punch a baby seal. You don't REALLY need Wi-Fi and GPS on your phone.

Both the features drain your battery than a parched camel drinking at an Oasis. Its not like you can't upload your images when you get home and onto a computer. An hour's worth of delay isn't going to kill you is it? Also, you do know where you took your shots right?



Screen size vs the screen resolution

A common mistake that people make is in choosing a larger screen over a higer resolution. What really matters is the pixel pitch and what's comfortable for your use. Any-



Regular updates

need a 6" display on a phone, don't go for it.

thing over 300ppi is excellent and unless you legitimately

Regular updates are essential for a fun, smartphone experience. It's no fun when you're stuck on ICS while the whole world is going gaga over JellyBean. Many companies are a bit lax when it comes to dishing out updates and some might even have a reputation for abandoning support for older products. Research well before you buy. Forums are a great source of such information.





Why the Entry-Level DSLR is not necessarily best for Beginners

We often come across people wanting to buy an entry level camera because "they're just starting off." It's by far the worst excuse ever to jus-



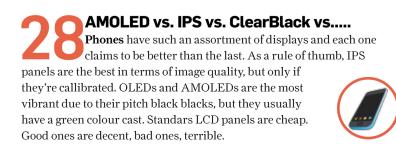
Check for upgradability Laptops are usually quite limited when it comes to their hardware, a side-effect of their form factor. Regardless, it's always good when you have the option to upgrade at a later date. Either in the form of an extra RAM slot or even an extra HDD bay.

option, but you'll get over it sooner than you might think. Wait a few months and go semi-pro. You won't regret it.



Slim form factor has its issues Just because a tablet is slim doesn't mean

it's awesome. As with laptops, a slimmer tablet means a slimmer battery and a hotter device. The build quality is also usually compromised. Don't just go by hype.



Just because you have a GPU doesn't mean that you can game

The fact that a gaming laptop needs a good GPU is a given, but

you must remember that there are other factors to consider as well. A laptop that's too slim and/or not well-ventilated will overheat, a native resolution that's too high will ruin your game and the lack of an SSD will teach you the virtues of patience.



More expensive doesn't mean the best

You will find tablets priced all the way from ₹10,000 to ₹50,000. Sure the iPad is still the king of tablets, but if you're on a tight budget, you may get an impressive device for a lower budget. Tablets such as the Lava ETab Xtron Plus are priced under

₹10,000 but are great at what they offer. Similarly, the first generation Nexus is still a great buy for ₹14,000 when compared to the other ₹15,000 tablets available in the market.





Aural prowess

It pays to listen to your future mobile phone's speakers before you buy it. Many phones have some of the largest displays with the tinniest

speakers ever made. Also remember that not all speakers are made the same and while some may have excellent treble, others might have improved bass (whatever little

that can be managed from a speaker that measues 1cm across). Also, a speaker that is optimized for voices is more preferable in a mobile device. Call up a friend, have him talk to you and listen for clarity.



The DSLR is king, the mirrorless the court Jester

Its shameful just how salesmen often say that a mirrorless camera is inadequate when compared to an entry level DSLR. Nothing could be farther from the truth. Yes, their AF systems aren't as evolved, and that they may not have three dozen lens options to boot, but what you do get is an incredibly

compact camera with the SAME image quality as that of an entry level DSLR. Yep, you read that right. The same quality. For most users, that's more than they'll ever need.



Windows 8 laptops, better try before you buy

The new Windows 8 UI has so far managed to create more foes than fans, and there is a good reason behind that accomplishment. The new UI is more suited for touchscreens and tablet experience

rather than a desktop/workstation use. If you have been blindly upgrading to subsequent versions of Windows, Windows 8 will hardly make you feel at home. The learning curve can be steep. Beware.



Connectivity

Just because a phone has NFC, BlueTooth 4.0, 802.11ac and LTE support doesn't meant that you must have it. The average person

barely has access to 3G, let alone LTE and how many times have you transferred a file via Bluetooth or NFC that you so desperately need that feature? Sure, if

you do need that feature then there's no question that you must buy a device that supports such a feature, but if you don't, don't bother. Most of is nothing more than marketting mumbo-jumbo anyway.



The myth of the "All-in-One" lens

Many a times, we end up buying a DSLR and then don't want to deal with the "hassle" of changing lenses often. Self-defeating purpose aside, the whole idea of an "all-in-one" lens comes to a grinding halt when you take into account several

factors. They have terrible aperture ranges, horribly distort your images at all but a few focal lengths and are generally no better than what you would have got on a bridge camera anyway. Stay away.



4:3 or 16:9

If the myriad screen sizes weren't confusing enough, choosing the right aspect ratio can also be a pain in the neck. Most tablets do come in the widescreen form-factor, but rare ones like the iPad still stick to the standard 4:3 format. The 4:3 format is the ideal resolution for reading and browsing, especially for browsing through photos. 16:9 is ideal for movies and videos. Also, bear in mind that on larger tablets, the 16:9 aspect ratio can



The mysterious X (X zoom factor)

A point of frustration when trying to buy a camera is when salesmen say that a camera is better because it has a

better "Zoom" factor (8x is better than 6X?). What they don't tell you (or don't know) is that the X factor is not an indicator of actual magnification but an indicator of the magnification that the lens is capable of from its base magnification.



Plastic, metal or glass body?

Smartphones come in all shapes and sizes and also materials. Each type of material has its advantages and you shouldn't dismiss any of them without due consideration. Plastic bodied

phones are lighter and the panels are usually less prone to dents and scratches, given their flexibility. On the down side, the phones can feel cheap and might be flimsy to boot. Metal-bodied phones are ideal in terms of thickness and strength. However, very thin metal, as on the

iPhone 5 will usually offer no better protection than a plastic bodied phone. Plus, metal looks really ugly when scratched. Glass bodies phones, such as the Nexus 4, while a pleasure to behold, are among the easiest phones to inadvertantly damage. Choose wisely,





The move towards reflective, glossy laptop screens by the industry has more to do with covering up crappy TN panels with reflective glass than to hide the low contrast and poor color fidelity. Glossy screens induce reflections and glare that adds strain to your eyes on prolonged

use. Apart from the strain, glossy screens suffer from poor visibility in brightly lit and outdoor work environments. Non- reflective, matte screens offer better panel brightness and are easier on the eyes. Of course, many screens, notably those on the MacBooks, come with anti-glare coatings.



SIM card doesn't mean that the tablet can make calls

A common mistake people make is to assume that a tablet can make calls as well, despite the

fact that you'll look daft with a tablet plastered to your face. The SIM cards only work to provide you with direct internet access and nothing more. There are a handful of tablets that do provide this feature though.



Do your apps work on that?

Heavy Instagram user? Avoid BlackBerry, for example. Not all smartphone platforms offer the same selection of apps. You need to identify the apps critical to you, and check if the phone you're going to buy lets you use them. Note that paid apps will have to be re-purchased.



be too cumbersome to use.

Want a stylus?

The stylus is not just an archaic touch-screen tool that's still being pushed for use in modern devices. The stylus, while mostly useless on current phones, given

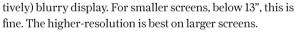
the finger-friendly UI, is still a popular input device, particularly for large-screen phones. It offers greater precision, but unless you need it, it serves no functional purpose. Also, make sure that the phone you buy has some mechanism to store the stylus when not in use.

3G USB dongle supports A common mistake people make while picking up a Wi-Fi only tablet is to check for a 3G USB dongle support. Most Android tablets support the popular 3G dongles available in India such as those from Reliance, Tata Photon, Huawei and more. However, there are some tablets that only support a particular 3G USB dongle. You can check the box or the manufacturers website for these details.

The right resolution

Picking the right resolution for a laptop is tricky business. A lower resolution screen means

less load on the GPU and improved battery life, but the trade-off is a (compara-







Dealer vs. manufacturer's warranty

Many of those lower-priced devices that you may find online will be backed by a seller/dealer warranty. This type of warranty is useless unless you know from experience that the seller is extremely reliable. Such phones (with the seller waranty) are a risk from the moment you buy

them and all your servicing needs are dependant on a guy who you might never see ever again. Not all dealer warranty is bad, and also, whether you need the warranty or not depends on the discount you get. Massive discounts might be worth losing the warranty over. You're the best judge.

No amount of sorcery can make a laptop sound as good as a home theatre. don't believe those fancy stickers Laptops claim "Dolby" surround sound, some of them even manage to integrate "woofers" underneath the

chassis. All that razzmatazz seldom translates to good quality sound, though, honestly speaking, Dolby certified speakers are generally better than the average speakers.





Gorilla glass vs. scratch guards

Many manufacturers pass of their screens as "scratchresistant" but remember, Gorilla

glass is gorilla glass and many manufacturers skimp out on this (including such big names as Sony) and vou won't really be aware of the exact certification

of the supposed scratch-resistant screen that you've got. In such a situation, a good scratch guard is a life-saver. Stock scratch-guards are usually bad and it's best to get a reputed one for your screen.



Chargers and cables

This is a very common mistake that people make, believing that any charger will do for their device. Most of the time, tablets are provided with custom chargers due to the higher capacities of their batteries. You can't just mix and match and assume that any charger is fine for your device. The power requirements will defer

from device to device and you'd better be aware of what those requirements are. Slapping a 2.1A charger on a 7' tablet might effectively kill the device.



HD, Full HD, Ultra HD, Ultra Mega HOLYHELL HD Video

In our journey through various big store chains, many salesmen

told us that some cameras recorded HD video and some did Full HD. When asked what the difference was, we were told that HD meant 720p while Full

HD meant 1080p. You can argue about the merits of one over the other but just know this, forget the nonsense that's spewing from that salesman, whip out your phone and Google the specs.



O BUY THIS DIWA

With Diwali and Christmas around the corner, it's time to loosen those purse strings and splurge that big, fat, bonus paycheck away. Apart from hunting for the best deals online and in retail stores, these are some of the gadgets that you shouldn't be missing out on. Happy shopping!

Jayesh Shinde

Apple iMac

Granted they're a year old and about to get a refresh very soon, but that doesn't make the 2012 Apple iMac any less desirable. It sports a sleeker shell than ever before, and good internal hardware, not to mention a rich set of connectivity and I/O ports that includes Thunderbolt. Apple really know how to make great screen panels and it shows on the iMac. The PC may be dead, but there's still some life left in the venerable Apple AIO.



PS4 This is the year of console refreshes and if you're not buying

the Xbox, you gotta buy the PS4. How can you not, if you're a console gamer? There are plenty of good reasons to make the upgrade: sweet new specs, an all new controller design, and never-before-seen PSN features - including live broadcasting. The device's scheduled to launch later next month, but not in India. Need pre-ordering tips? Flip over to "Where the deals at."



Kindle Paperwhite

5 5 In the world of ebook readers, Amazon's Kindle is still head and shoulders above the rest. And that's an understatement. With an innovative new front-lit e-ink display (yeah, read more about it here: http://dgit.in/18D3pFm), the Paperwhite literally mops the floor with competing products. And guess what? Amazon just upgraded it with an even better display. If you read a lot on your tablet, give the Paperwhite a try. It will blow your mind away.

lints

Samsung Galaxy Gear

Is this Samsung's knockout punch to Apple in the wearable tech segment? A bit prema-

ture to say for sure, but the Galaxy Gear's the best "smart watch" we've gotten our hands on till date. Not only does it come with smart features – custom apps, voice recognition, camera, and more – it looks great as well. Like what you see? Maybe smart watches aren't such a bad idea after all?



Alienware 17

Doministic State How do you make heads turn at a LAN gaming party without trying out those hidden kung-fu moves? By getting an Alienware, of course. Sporting a metal screen lid with angular accents, and a nice, chunky, reinforced plastic exterior, the

Alienware feels rock solid and very sturdy. Not counting its comprehensive connectivity features, the machine also packs in superior internal hardware, not to mention the new Intel 4th generation Haswell processor and NVIDIA's gaming chops. Worth buying if you're a laptop gamer.



Nikon CoolPix S6500

The S65OO is a very compact, no-fuss camera. It has great optics and a build that can rough it out if need be. The ergonomics may be a hit

or miss, with closely placed buttons, but if we can adapt to varying keyboards, then we can surely get used to the slightly smaller buttons on the back of the S6500. It's slow to start, but that's about it's only problem.



Steelseries Siberia V2

For uber gamers willing to go the extra mile for ultimate audio, only the utmost precision will suffice and the SteelSeries V2 based Diablo III and Frost Blue headsets are the only ones that can satisfy them. These headsets impressed us

with the precision of their reproduction and pin-point positioning of the in-game source. The design has compromised on bass in favour of precision of reproduction and it shows. For a hardcore gamer with only gaming performance in mind, these are among the best headsets; if a little expensive.



iPhone 5S

Possibly the most-awaited technology product of the year, the iPhone 5S finally launched last month in its full glory. Packing in at doubles up as a forcer print iden-

a home button that doubles up as a fingerprint identity sensor (dubbed Touch

ID), an A7 chip with 64-bit architecture, and the impressive iSight camera, this phone is certainly worth a double take. It's available in three colours, and the gold one is our pick. If money's no problem, you gotta have one of these.



Samsung 7500 Smart TV (UA46F7500)

If you believe in the adage that "A TV isn't just a TV anymore", then the Samsung 7500 Smart TV series is one such 46-inch television set you should be splurging on. It has stunning looks, very good performance, a neat set of Smart TV features and the razzle-dazzle of stuff including

motion gestures and the new, minimalistic remote control. Oh, and it also has a quad-core chip inside. Surprised?





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Samsung Galaxy Note III

There's a brand new Galaxy Note phablet on its way for all who can't decide between a tablet or smartphone purchase. The device's 5.7-inch Super

AMOLED screen touts a Full HD resolution, and its frame packs a 13MP shooter with a whole host of dazzling features. It packs in a whopping 3GB of RAM, which should deliver a pleasant user experience and performance. And it comes with a stylus, too. The Note 3 comes out this October. Indecision, begone!



ZOTAC ZBOX NANO ID65 Plus The ZOTAC ZBOX NANO is a very tiny PC. Barely larger than the average schoolgoing kid's tiffin box, ZOTAC has managed to pack in an Intel Core i7 processor and 4GB of RAM. Don't let

the diminutive size fool you though, this is easily the most powerful tiny PC we've reviewed this year, and if vou're looking to buy one (and can afford the price tag) we definitely recommend it.



NVIDIA Shield

If you want a powerful handheld gaming device (kinda like the PS VITA or Nintendo DS), check out the NVIDIA Shield. It's like an Xbox controller with a 5-inch, 720p touchscreen display fused to it, and it runs on a 1.9 GHz Tegra 4 SoC - one of the fastest out in the market this year

- and supports streaming games from your PC (e.g. any controller supported game on Steam). Android games run spectacularly, even if it lacks a comprehensive game

library for now, and the Shield's touted positively for its good battery life.



MacBook Pro with Retina Display

Apple's MacBook range is renowned for stunning, wellcalibrated displays, and with the Retina Display MacBook Pro Apple ups the ante even more. Apart from the fact that it's expensive and better configurations are available from competing OEMs at a lesser

price, the MacBook Pro's display screen is unbeatable. There's also that bit about a Soluto survey proclaiming the MacBook Pro as the best Windows PC to buy because of its lowest rate of BSODs, crashes and the lack of bloatware.



Sony VAIO Pro 13

At 1.06 kilograms, the Sony Vaio Pro 13 is the lightest, 13-inch touchscreen, Windows 8 ultrabook that money can buy today, and its full-HD

touchscreen display is one of its highlights. The Vaio Pro is built well and very well suited for frequent travelers and business users looking for a sleek machine that exudes class and craftsmanship. It's a zippy machine, minus the gaming, and offers very good battery life.



Samsung Galaxy S4

The S4 is another great Android phone of this year, and compared to the HTC One, the S4's plastic case doesn't go well with its flagship tag. It has great internal hardware, offers very good performance, and proprietary features. There's very little to separate it from the HTC One as the performance of both phones is very good, and absolutely neck and neck. Whether you buy this or the HTC One depends on whether you bought the SIII last year. Definitely worth considering, especially if you have the moolah!



Bang & Olufsen Beosound 8

This dock is in a league of its own. The Beosound 8 is a monster iPod Dock that produces unmatched clarity and detail. It easily transgresses into audiophile ter-

ritory and still remains a device for casual use. In terms of looks, the Beosound looks drop dead gorgeous. Of all the iPod docks we've tested, this is by far the best one we've seen.



Razer Ouroboros

Razer has put in three years of hard work into the creation of this mouse and it shows. Offering a mind-boggling amount of

customization options, the mouse is exceptionally well-built and the precision and control that it offers is unparalleled. This is unquestionably a premium mouse, but it also demands a premium price. Regardless, in the right hands this mouse is a killer and a must-have accessory for the true gamer.



Sennheiser HD 700

This is just a great headphone with superlative sound quality, period. The overall sound is almost sparkly and so open, you get a brilliantly wide soundstage. As for the performance the headphones deliver brilliant dynamic range - you'll hear everything from the quietest clink of an idiophone instrument, to the loudest scream of a wailing guitar. This is worth every rupee it demands.



Motorola Moto X

If you want to get your hands on a phone that isn't mass produced in China, con-

sider the Moto X - the only smartphone assembled fully in the US of A. The phone has a customizable back lid, the design of which can be madeto-order (wood, plastic, metal, etc). Various independent reviews peg the smartphone's build, features and performance to be quite good, and its appeal is comparable to any flagship. An unlocked developer edition of the Moto X just went up for sale too.



TP-LINK M5350

The M5350 is a portable 3G Wi-Fi router. It sports a stylish cobblestoned design and finish that's

unique and premium. Slip in a 3G-enabled SIM inside the M5350, plug in the device to a laptop via USB and you're online within seconds. Setting it up is a breeze. The device also acts as a Wi-Fi hotspot, allowing more PCs to share the 3G Internet connection. A great device to have on the road.



Epson EH-TW8100

This one's by far the best home entertainment projector to grace our labs. The thing is massive but elegant, feels premium on touch and sits sturdily on its adjustable legs. The TW8100 is seriously bright (maybe a little too bright) and effortlessly puts a spell-binding, exquisite cinematic performance, if you're a big screen fan. It supports 3D and a

whole host of IO options. If you're thinking of setting up a home entertainment room in your house, this is well worth your consideration.



Cooler Master Notepal Ergostand Lite

We were all very impressed with CM's Notepal U laptop cooling stand last year, and we're hearing that the new Notepal Ergo-

stand Lite continues its legacy. Supporting up to a 15-inch laptop, the Ergostand Lite sports an elegant mesh design for better airflow and one huge 160mm fan with adjustable positions. It's built well and should be on your radar if you're facing laptop heating issues.



Google Nexus 7 (2013 edition)

In case you were sleeping under a rock, allow us to jog your memory a bit. Google released

an updated Nexus 7 in July this year which is probably the best Android tablet to buy right now. It's quite sleek, well built, and packs in plenty of performance muscle. Being a Nexus device, this tablet will automatically be prioritized to receive any future Android updates before anyone else. At the earliest, it's expected to launch later this month at around ₹20k.



Cover story

Logitech Driving Force GT

Racing simulator games just don't feel the same on a controller, you have to enjoy them on a driving wheel. And the Logitech Driving Force GT's a no-

nonsense racing wheel with quite good performance.

It isn't as expensive as the G27 (from Logitech) or as precise as the Steelseries SRW-S1, but strikes a good balance between price, performance, and features.



Xbox One

Do we really have to do this again? Console gamers who aren't on the PS3, do yourself a favour and get hold of the Xbox One. We don't know the fate of RROD, but the One's brimming with features that deprived X360 fans have been waiting for. With improved hardware, a new controller, and a super-enhanced Kinect and

Xbox LIVE, not to mention a whole slew of tantalizing gaming titles, it's time to take your gaming experience to the next level. Preorders starts next month.



HTC One Finally a phone from

HTC that

stands up to scrutiny for being one of the very best Android phones to launch this year - and not being overshadowed by the likes of Samsung. The HTC One is universally hailed for its build quality, a phone that exudes class and polish and manages to impress the hell out of us with its performance and features.



LG 29EA93

Ultrawide HD monitors are the next wave and the LG 29EA93P is one fine specimen worth buying. We tested it earlier this year and were quite impressed with its performance.

innovative design, in-depth OSD features and it's huge canvas. It's literally like two HD monitors were fused together into one, a brilliant idea. If you're looking to buy a new monitor, we highly recommend this one.



Galaxy GTX 770

With two fans on this card against the single one seen on the stock GTX 770 from NVIDIA, the GTX 770 from Galaxy runs

a tad cooler. Its build quality is decent as they've used a nicely designed metal shroud on top. In terms of performance, this card would run all the current crop of games with ease, don't vou worry. It's definitely better than the stock GTX 770 and a great option to go for your high end gaming needs.



Audioengine A5+

If the A2 was awesome, the A5+ is even more awesome for anyone looking for a good pair of audiophile speakers. How good

are they? They're superb, they're loud and for someone who's rarely ever heard really great speakers, these are the best things that you can ever buy. These speakers are not for the meek. They're for a deep-pocketed music lover who can afford to indulge in a hassle-free setup.



Google Chromecast

This is one tiny device you must get your hands on. It's a pen drive-sized USB dongle measuring less than three inches that plugs into any HDTV, and voila! It lets you play audio/video content off the Web or a local network. This diminutive media

streaming adapter has mobile apps on Android and iOS, as well as Google Chrome, letting you wirelessly interact with the plugged in Chromecast and mirror content off devices. Only for \$35, isn't that a steal?





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- WPS and Wi-Fi On/Off button
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SHOPPING

Online shopping can be one of the most convenient ways of getting your materialistic fixations, but sometimes, things go wrong and HOW! Here's a quick guide to avoiding such fiascos.

Swapnil Mathur

he online shopping space has been a booming concept, but it's only recently been catching on in India, with sites like Flipkart and Snapdeal at the helm of this new movement. However, just as with all things that become big, they often tend to become too big for their shoes. Lately, the amount of horror stories we've heard from our readers regarding their experiences with many online portals has been alarming, to say the least.

The problem seems to be a growing one. Untimely deliveries, cancelled orders, missed deals. The online retail business is definitely going through a paradigm shift and with so many players not coming into the market, one must wonder why the competition hasn't been spurred to increase their quality of service? Maybe somewhere we've become a little too resigned to the whole "this is just how things are" mentality. For those of you who aren't so passive, here's how you can maximize the joy of online shopping. We reached out to not just our readers, but also some online retailers to truly understand where the potential problems could lie and how you, as a buyer, could work around them.

Before Buying Pick the right marketplace:

As of now there are a number of websites that have established themselves as key players in the business. Sites like Amazon, eBay, Flipkart, Snapdeal and HomeShop18 have established themselves as reputed marketplaces, amongst others, and we strongly recommend in dealing with only known brands. The reason for such an endorsement is the fact that their brand has been built on excellent customer service, even though they there might be a few hiccups from time to time. However, their rate of messing up will definitely be much lower than that of a "new-kid-on-theblock" site.

A good marketplace is one that allows for free expression of opinions regarding shopping experiences. If a marketplace only has positive feedback, then there is some form of favouritism going on there. Websites like Amazon India and eBay have built their reputations on completely uncensored feedback, which is what has helped many buyers from all over the world make decisive purchase decisions.

Remember it's a marketplace, not a retailer:

There was a time when some of the online sites were the sellers of the item in question, but that is no more the case, for the most part. Most e-commerce sites have now switched to a marketplace model, meaning they no longer stock the

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Cover story

products you see on their site. They have instead brought on board various other sellers. This model was originally seen on eBay and is now adopted by pretty much every popular e-commerce site.

One of the biggest advantages of such a system is that it opens up the possibility of selecting whatever you'd want to buy from the largest selection possible. eBay currently has close to 30,000 resellers on-board, which means that if you're looking for an HDMI cable, chances are that you'd find every kind of cable in existence through one seller or another. Now try hunting for that in your local market.

Once you've taken care of the above two pointers, don't think it ends there. There are a few more important things one must keep in mind.

Once You're Ready to Buy Research your deals

The whole point of buying online is that we can find better deals faster and more conveniently. Back in the day of analogue, people would scour markets, looking up prices on the one thing they wanted to buy. We suggest going through the popular e-commerce sites to find a good deal on the products you're trying to purchase. You're chilling on your chair anyway, so how much effort could it be to open a few extra browser tabs? Not a lot. However one strong word of caution. If you find the stuff you're looking for on a relatively new/obscure e-commerce site, we strongly recommend staying away from that deal. In the online transaction

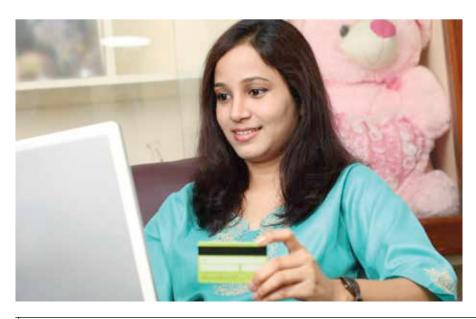


Don't just shell out your cash willy-nilly. Understand how transactions work on the site you're purchasing from.

world, the simple rule is "if it's too good to be true, it probably is."

Pick the right seller:

Each of the e-commerce sites will have a particular seller that offers the best service. This is where your free time and internet skills come in. You ideally want to buy from a seller who'd take good care of you in the event your order goes wrong. Look at the negative ratings, and it will give you a good idea of where the seller falters. We don't mean to sound like we're endorsing the brand, but if you want a hassle free online shopping



experience, products from Amazon.in that carry the "fulfilled by Amazon" tag are probably the most reliable. These products are guaranteed by Amazon to be available and will be delivered to you by the requisite date, no matter what, free of charge (on orders less than Rs. 500). These products are also tested at Amazon's fullfilment centres for quality.

We reached out to various online retailers and the spokesperson from Amazon and eBay India informed us that one of the best ways to ensure that your purchase isn't going to end up being a headache is by ensuring that you're only buying from sellers that have a very high positive rating.

Mode of payment:

While CoD ensures that none of your cash goes into a transaction that could eventually go sour, paying by Credit Card or Debit Card is also a safe bet. If an online retailer can't process your order, the money is simply returned to your account, though in the case of a credit card transaction, it may take a few days, depending on your bank. Your money is safe in the event the order doesn't go through, as long as you are ordering from a reputed online marketplace.

eBay India has implemented PaisaPay, a payment method which holds the money until the order reaches the customer. In fact, if the package isn't shipped within five days of placing the order, the money is automatically refunded.

After You've Bought: Track, Track, TRACK!

As we learnt from our recent experience, the first signs of a cancelled order lie in the order status remaining as "processing" for any duration longer than 2 business days. eBay gives its sellers five days to update the order information, but If your order has been "processing" for longer than that, call up the customer care helpline and get one of them to verify the status of your order. If they are going to come through with your shipment, they will tell you so and if not, they will probably say something like "we're still trying to procure your order," or something similar. IF your order status hasn't moved after 2 days of this call, you're better off cancelling the order, but the final call is still yours.

Cancellations and refunds

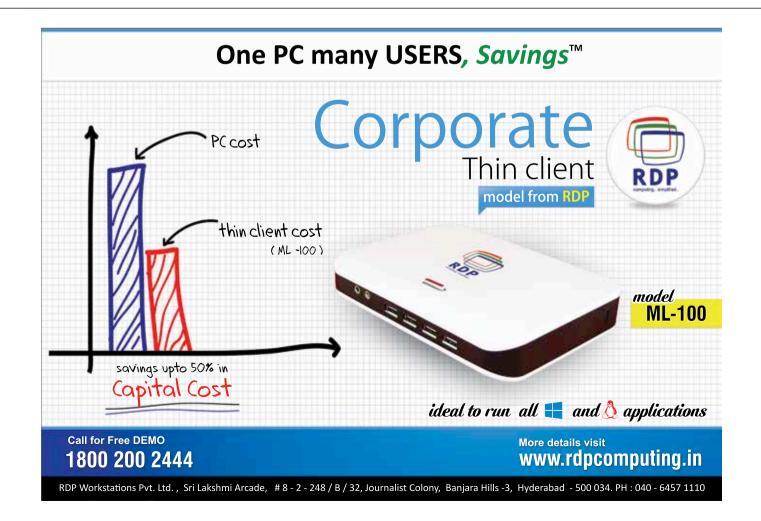
In the event that you do decide to cancel vour order, the money will be refunded to you depending on how you paid for the item. However, things get a little tricky if you have ordered stuff using your credit card on EMI. Now when you do use the EMI option, the entire amount gets blocked on your card, with the monthly payments being made to the vendor as per the due dates. In the event of the cancellation, most online marketplaces will not issue a full refund! They will refund your money in the same EMI format. So for example, if you bought ₹60,000 worth of goods from a seller using the 6 month EMI option, followed by cancelling this order: the ₹60.000 will not be refunded to you. You will get ₹10,000 back every month for the next 6 months. It's an utterly stupid policy and in the event that you do cancel an EMI order, insist on having the entire amount refunded immediately. Don't accept things lying down. You might have to make some noise, but we are yet to hear of a case that was turned down.



Aaah! If only shopping online was this convenient

Bad things happen

Sometimes, no matter how cautious you are, you just may end up having a bad experience. It could be a failed delivery, broken product, a seller not honouring the warranty or a Dead on Arrival request etc. Don't let that stop you from shopping online. Think of it this way; just because you got food poisoning from eating at a restaurant, you don't stop eating out altogether. Hell, some people don't even stop eating at that particular restaurant. We strongly recommend you make sure the matter doesn't die down though. Online marketplaces like eBay and Amazon strongly believe in cus-



Cover story

tomer feedback and both the sites make sure than if a seller has become a repeat offender, that seller will be barred from selling on their website. Don't let one bad egg ruin the entire basket for you.

We spoke to representatives from both eBay and Amazon, namely, Deepa Thomas – eCommerce evangelist for eBay, and Meenu Handa – Head of PR at Amazon India, and this is what they had to say.

Q) Are there any specific signs we can recommend from our end that users should definitely look out for in their online dealings with retailers?

eBay: Online shopping is completely secure as long as customers shop on a secure, reputed, shopping website. eBay has a robust feedback mechanism that enables buyers to rate sellers based on their experience with the seller. The feedback scores and the verbatim feedbacks are visible to all users. This helps buyers to take an informed decision about their purchase.

Amazon: "We are relentless in providing our customers a secure and reliable delivery experience. Towards that we encourage Customer Reviews on the product detail page and Seller Feedback Rating on the seller page. We believe these help customers make an informed buying decision. Customer Reviews provides unbiased feedback on the product from real shoppers while the Seller Feedback Rating provides feedback on seller performance. You will find that we keep both negative and positive reviews visible on the site. This has always been a tenet at the company ever since its inception."

Q) What sort of challenges do eCommerce face in procuring orders and ensuring their delivery? Do you play



Welcome to the dark side, we got digital shopping carts and high speed internet.



If you want to have this happy expression when shopping online, make sure you safeguard yourself against online fraud.

any role other than that of a "portal for sellers and buyers to connect?"

eBay: eBay is a pure marketplace and hence, is a platform to enable trade between sellers and buyers. We don't hold inventory and therefore the onus of shipping lies with the seller. There are more than 30,000 sellers on eBay India, spread across the country. The delivery time of the merchandise is majorly dependent on the geographical location of the buyer and the seller. Hence, deliveries within the same city / state would be faster than that compared to far away locations. So, the estimate time for a product to reach the buyer largely depends on the proximity factor.

To make the delivery system efficient and manageable for our sellers, we launched PowerShip, which is a logistics management service for eBay merchants which significantly enhance the efficiency of managing multiple item shipments and delivery of items to eBay India buyers. We've engaged with reputed logistic service providers like Bluedart, DTDC, Fedex & Aramax for this initiative. The service includes product pick-ups from eBay Merchants' doorstep, automated tracking of shipments, and faster item deliveries by Logistic Service Providers and coverage for the shipment from eBay India.

Amazon: While it is difficult to generalize, but our delivery estimate is based on multiple factors such as shipping address location, courier coverage and speed of delivery to a particular region and seller location (in case of seller fulfilled orders). Order delays can be due to various reasons including external factors such as local holidays, customer availability at the given address, natural calamities, or social and political unrest or even weather.

Q) How do you deal with a transaction that goes bad?

eBay: At eBay India, it's our aim to provide consumers a pleasant, safe and transparent transaction. We have a secured payment mechanism called PaisaPay, which holds the money of the buyer till the transaction is fulfilled in accordance to the set policies. On making a sale, the seller is required to ship the product to the buyer within 5 days of the transaction and update the tracking number on eBay. If any seller fails to do so, the money is automatically refunded to the buyer. Moreover, the payment is released to a seller only once the product gets delivered to the buyer. This is Indiaspecific innovation by eBay, keeping customer convenience in mind.

Amazon: If a customer contacts Amazon customer service because of a delay in delivery of an order which was Fulfilled by Amazon (FBA), we escalate it to our courier partners to rectify the problem and have the product delivered at the earliest. If the problem isn't resolved or there are long delays in a particular region due to uncontrollable factors which could be weather, natural calamities, or social & political disruptions we offer a refund to our customer. If the order is dispatched directly by the seller (only those using Selling on Amazon) we encourage our customers to contact the seller and allow them a chance to resolve the issue. However, all customer purchases for seller fulfilled orders are protected by Amazon's A-to-Z Guarantee, which ensures that the customer can get their money back in case the seller is unable to resolve their issue. 🚺

Mithun Mohandas

We introduce you to the not so secretive world of deal aggregators.

hether or not you have any inhibitions regarding online purchases, one thing's for certain online deals can never be matched by brick-and-mortar retailers. However, for a complete shopping experience you need to have elements of both worlds which would be, one, an abundance of information and reviews. Two, experiencing the look and feel of a product in your own hands. Which is why major brick-and-mortar shops are focusing on improving their digital presence and online retailers and venturing into the physical world. But that's a discussion for another day, our focus here is on three

main scenarios here – purchasing from within the country, outside the country and finally video games online. We'd like to warn you right now that most of these web sites send a bucket load of emails everyday so getting a separate email ID is advised. We've featured a few websites which you should go through, though, almost all websites swap content regularly with each other and feature the same deals. After a while it's quite likely that skimming through deals will become part of your morning routine.

Buying from india

There are umpteen number of online shops in India and going through each

one of them is counter-productive. By the time you are done going through each and every site you risk missing out on a timed deal. Also, not everyone has the time or the resolve to plow through 20-30 websites just to save a few hundred bucks. So here are a sites vou need to go through first, if you don't find a good deal for whatever it is that you are looking for then proceed to the arduous task of scanning each and every site or you could play the waiting game. Buying online from new websites is always a sketchy business, specially when it's a facilitator between multiple retailers, so do take care when dealing with them.



Most web sites that aggregate deals follow a similar format, the only difference is that certain offers are specific to a particular website so you won't find them on other aggregator websites. This is partly due to affiliate programs and partly due to the actual work undertaken by the site administrators. http://www. FreeKaaMaal.com has been around for about three years now and is pretty much one of the most prominent deal aggregator in India. The site also has a section for coupons but rarely do e-commerce sites allow for coupling of two or more offers so if you do end up getting in on a good deal then it is likely that a coupon can't be clubbed with it.

Moreover, they also host a forum which covers quite a diverse spectrum of deal hunting. Members vote on certain deals and the feedback decides whether it attains a "featured deal" status or not. You can even find freebie deals which could entail free home delivery of sample packs. We've heard of folks making multiple accounts to get a month's worth of toiletries. You even get the scoop on international freebie deals, then you can get a bunch of people interested in the same product to get a discounted shipping deal. This is quite similar to a GO(Group Order).

If you doubt the veracity of any of the featured deals then there is even a review section to help clear your qualms. One last thing you can get done is have

Alternatives (Indian)

Given the huge spurt in the number of deal sites in India we now have plenty of alternatives to look at. http://www.deaidime.com http://www.dealofthedayindia.com http://www.snapdeal.com http://www.dealsandyou.com

others help you find a deal on whatever product you wish to buy. While not every query goes answered you can easily expect a few responses. Khojguru. com is another site which hasn't been a victim to an aggressive takeover that others which started around the same time have been.

The banality of landing plenty of deals is something that metropolitan cities

enjoy and the rest of India doesn't. For those staying in rural areas, even if you were to find a great deal online there is the possibility that they might not deliver to your location.

Buying from abroad

A very common occurrence is when one of your friends or relatives are coming from the United States is that you'd ask them to get a little something for you. Given the free-trade agreements that it has with almost every major manufac-

Alternatives (Abroad)

There is no one site which covers every product category so here are a few websites that you may check out in case you can't find what you wanted. http://www.dealsofamerica.com http://www.deals2buy.com http://www.dealnews.com http://www.fatwallet.com

turing nation it enjoys the best prices you can find. And to make the deal sweeter we've shortlisted a few websites for you.

The most common destinations for buying cheap electronics incidentally has a high volume of Indian tourism. They are Singapore, UK, UAE and the United States. If you've got Singapore in your crosshair then check out http:// www.deal.com.sg and http://www.mustafa. com.sg/MMSProduct/. Both of these are the best places to look for online deals in Singapore, but the actual action takes place at Sim Lim square and Funan Mall. Unfortunately, Funan Mall doesn't have any pricelists which you could refer but stores on Sim Lim square do. We found one particular store which kept an updated list of prices for computer components in particular - BizGram. You can check out the latest prices here http:// dgit.in/15nejPK.

For the UK there is http://www.hotukdeals.com/ which should be more than enough for your shopping needs.

The United States has pretty much the best prices of them all, and http://www. slickdeals.com should cover pretty much all of them. Getting \$250-300 off on a medium to high configuration laptop is one of the most common deals you can get. International warranty is somewhat a concern here since the policies change from nation to nation, so if you were eligible for a 3 year warranty in the US that might not be the case by the time you get your product shipped to India. However, given the massive discounts one can hardly complain.

The UAE is also a great place to get electronics for cheap but there are hardly any online sites which one can refer to

Video game deals

There are numerous online game distribution platforms but Steam still reigns supreme. However, the competition is doing its part to change this dynamic. While nothing on the horizon will be able to even remotely dent the market share that Steam enjoys in the foreseeable future, it hasn't stopped folks from trying. Let's look at the major players here, they have great deals on their own which is why keeping an eye out on these websites/platforms is something that you shouldn't skip out on. Though these are mainly platforms they regularly feature great deals which are not all captured by the aggregator sites.

Steam

The Mac daddy of them all, steam has this innate ability to empty bank balances over a period of one week, spread three to four times over the year. Gamers have been known to go on a diet and skip a few



meals in order to squeeze in a few extra games into their game libraries. Steam is cross platform too, so it works on Windows, Linux and Mac.

Origin

The success of Origin is purely due to EA's mighty arsenal of successful games. The fan following is so huge that it took next to no effort to have people jump

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Security Simplified

Cover story

on to the Origin bandwagon. Though from a deals perspective Origin did very little. It even went to the extent of raising prices in India which caused quite a huge



furore. But all that changed with the Humble Origin Bundle. There has never been a bundle in the history of gaming that could even match up to what EA pulled off with the Humble Bundle.

GOG

If you still reminisce about the great DOS games that you enjoyed as a youngster then GOG is a great platform to check out. What GOG does is that it ports all the



classics onto the current OS and removes all traces of DRM. You get 10 free games just for signing up!

GreenManGaming

A relatively new player, GreenMan-Gaming has its own DRM/client called Capsule. What we've seen is that its focus is shifting towards Steam DRM and it has



a perpetual 20% off coupon system. What stands out about GMG is that nearly all Indian credit and debit cards work unlike on most other stores.

Desura

Desura is pretty much the equivalent of steam for Indie games, if it is Indie then it must be on Desura. It regularly has good deals on India games and you should definitely go through it.



The deal mantra

Now that you know that platforms for which you need to be looking out for, let's outline a simple sequence which you can follow in order to get the best game deals on the planet. You could always visit each and every site that you come across daily to ensure that you are way ahead of the curve but who on earth has the time to do that? The folks who run these "deals websites," that's who! However, no one person is ever going to attain the status of "Supreme Guru of Deals". Which is why crowd sourced aggregator web sites are the way to go.

Our aim is to whittle down the entire process down to as few web sites as possible and the ones we've featured below should get you on the path to filling up your game library without spending much.

SteamGameSales

This is the one site that has it all, the only downside is that it is limited to Steam only. The first thing you'll notice is the tab, "magic" that uses their own algorithm to points out the best deals on the website at that moment. However, we simply prefer sorting according to the discount percentage and then checking the history. They cover eight websites currently and hopefully we'll see more. Usually games follow a certain pattern and once you view the history chart you'll be able to guess whether a better deal will be out in the near future or not. It's a great way to avoid buyer's remorse. Let's say a certain game is on deal at 50% off, checking the history might tell you that the game went to an all time low of 80%. So it makes sense to wait out a little while and hopefully bag another 80% off deal. The cherry on the cake is the RSS feed.

Alternatives

http://steamsales.rhekua.com/ http://isthereanydeal.com/

Amazon Game Downloads

Amazon comes up with some great deals every now and then, sometimes, even better than the ones on Steam. The only issue here is that they are limited to the United States only(sometimes CANADA is included). What you can do is give the address of any of your relatives/friends and get that hurdle out of the way. You don't need a VPN to subvert region based IP blocking. Amazon has deals for all platforms so you should always check the DRM tag to verify which platform the game is for before buying.

Indie Kings: Bundle Tracker

While the above sites focus on individual games this one deals with bundles. Lately, it has even started keeping track of bundles which have been announced but are yet to start. There is no focus on any particular platform here so you can find bundles for Steam, Origin, Desura and even ones without any DRM. We've noticed a slow transition towards tracking individial deals as well but not to the extent that the competition does.

reddit.com/r/gamedeals

Pretty much the one source which is pillaged by all aggregators is this particular sub-reddit. Given that each deal has its own little discussion, you might come across better deals in the comments. Or if any subversive(gaming the system) approach is needed to make good on a deal you'll find the steps here. A word of caution - Steam and other platforms actively ban users who attempt to game the system. So if you've purchased a game which is region limited(specially RUS/ CIS limited games) and you do manage to activate it using a VPN then you can expect your account to be limited till you can convince steam to revert your account.

Going through all these websites is somewhat a nine-to-five job, so your best bet is to refer to the entire list of websites once a week or only when you wish to purchase something. Video games on the other hand has a completely different dynamic and the sales have little to do with regional holidays as such. And since it is digital import costs aren't there in the picture so we tend to follow video game deals on somewhat a daily basis. Maybe you should do the same.

Getting more than your money's worth is a prospect that we as

Getting more than your money's worth is a prospect that we as humans can never disregard, unless of course you are a monk who doesn't indulge in materialism.

ot all of us can get the inside scoop on the best deals but that doesn't mean you can't save at all. Coupons are available for most online store and even for some brick-and-mortar ones. Not using a coupon is pretty much blasphemous nowadays.

The low-down

Let's take a look at Coupondunia. The site on it's own has a pretty neat interface and straightaway gives you a gridwise listing of the most popular online stores and then proceeds to list featured coupons. Clicking on a particular coupon then brings up it's appropriate pop-up and the coupon-code if any gets copied to your clipboard automatically. There is a convenient rating system which tells you if there has been any negative feedback on a particular coupon and if so there is a comment section to further elaborate on the issue. Once you are satisfied you can simply click on the link and it will take you to the store page.

Nearly all coupon web sites follow a similar pattern. Certain coupons are region specific and they're more or less pertaining to a physical store rather than an online store, if this is the case then it should be mentioned so. Plus if you've come across a great deal at a new store then you(i.e. the user) can even add a whole new category and then submit the coupon.

Visit multiple sites

Never stick to one site, the main reason to do this is because of the affiliate programs

Mithun Mohandas

that most online stores have. Some have a flatout commission structure while others allow room for negotiation. It then comes down to how much of the commission is then passed onto the customers as a "cash back offer". Which is why you'll find certain coupons are exclusive to a particular website and offer more returns compared to generic coupons.

Why you should subscribe

While most coupon websites only list generic coupons with ample savings, getting on a subscription list ensures that



you end up getting single use coupons. These only work once and are specific to your account.

Don't miss out on these sites

Nearly every coupon aggregator claims to be numero uno in India but we couldn't cover them all but there are a few sites that have something extra or cater to a niche category.

www.couponraja.com

Banks like to pamper their customers by bringing out exclusive deals for customers that hold debit/credit cards of that particular bank. Coupon raja lists these bank specific deals and also highlights coupons pertaining to women's fashion.

www.cashkaro.com

Cashkaro is relatively new website and what's unique to them is that they have cash-back offers. So not only can you save money by using one of their coupons but you can also get back a portion of the money that you've paid for the product post discount. This money is added to your cashkaro account till it reaches a sum of

Rs.25O after which you can debit the amount to your bank account. So this is the one site that rewards loyalty.

www.retailmenot.com

This is the one store that enjoys the greatest volume of user traffic but they don't have an Indian site, rather it only has one section. What sets them apart is that they have an app for Android and IOS. Not to mention that it is their interface that has been adopted by most coupon websites.

www.priceburp.com

We did find a awful lot of hosting and web domain deals, here specially on their facebook page. A quick scroll resulted in deals ranging from 28% - 47% off on various hosting packages. Needless to say those who are keen on buying new domains shouldn't miss this site.

Tried & Tested



17 Portable HDDs tested 17 portable hard drives were benchmarked. Read on to find out which is the best one for you

Power banks

We take a look at 28 portable power banks ranging from 800 mAh to 10,400 mAh for all your power needs

FOUR CORES AND 9 TABLETS AGO

Manufacturers brought to our doorstep powerful devices priced around ₹20,000

Sameer Mitha sameer.mitha@9dot9.in

ablets have come a long way since they first started sprouting way back in 2010. At the time it was hard to justify purchasing a tablet and it was considered as a product for the elite class – a luxury device. Everyone aspired to own an iPad and its monopoly frustrated the competition. In the years that followed, we have seen the rise of Android as a stable smartphone as well as tablet OS. Tablets running Android seemed to launch everywhere. Over the past three years we have seen some impressive as well as disturbingly horrible tablets launch that run on Android. The good thing is that today, for a budget of ₹20,000, you can get your hands on a device that not only has some impressive specifications, but build quality and performance capabilities as well.

The market is flooded with so many homogenous Android tablets that at times, it is hard to distinguish the good from the bad. Sure, you have the tried and tested brands like Acer, Samsung, Sony and more bringing some great products to the table, but they haven't necessarily tapped all the price points at which the masses are looking to pick one up. With the

Quad-core Tablets

Bazaar Read to figure out what we have to say about the 20 latest gadgets to hit the market

growth in demand of budget or low cost tablets we have seen companies like HCL, Mercury, iberry, Zync, iBall, Karbonn and more enter the market with products that offered a basic Android experience to users at an entry level price.

For this shootout however, we have a set of nine tablets around ₹20,000 – that have a quad-core CPU. The advantage of having a quad-core CPU is that the tablet offers better power management capabilities, faster web page load times, better performance for heavy duty apps, better multitasking and better gaming capabilities when compared to the dual-core offerings in the market. Of course, the processor has to be complimented with adequate RAM, to ensure a smooth and responsive experience.

The tablets that are a part of this shootout showcase the ability to do a lot more than run Facebook and Angry Birds. They act as a portable entertainment device giving users access to movies, music and games on the go. Consumers can also do some productivity work such as documents, spreadsheets and more. They also have access to utility apps, some of which are customized based on your profession such as photo editing, architecture, medical apps



and more. Finally, the most important utility factor of a tablet is that it should have a crisp display for consuming all the content as well as a good touch interface so that you can interact with the device with absolute ease. Not to mention a battery life that has the ability to last for more than a few minutes.

Based on these consumer parameters, we at Digit tested nine tablets available to the consumers today that boast of a quad-core CPU, a 7-inch or larger display and a price tag around ₹20,000. All these devices run on Android.

Design and build

You get what you pay for. That is the general correlation between the price of a tablet and the quality of its build. The plastics used, flex in the display, looks, flashy design and more get better with a higher price tag. This is the general norm and not a rule written in stone. We have seen some budget devices, such as the Zync Quad 8 and the Simmtronics XpadMini showcase some really good build quality.

Starting with the Zync, all the three tablets that came for the shootout are quite similar in their build. The difference of course is with the size of the display and the placement of the ports. The three tablets –

> Zync Quad 8, Zync Quad 9.7 and Zync quad 10.1 boast of an 8-inch, 9.7inch and 10.1-inch display respectively. The front of the Zync Quad 8 has a white border around the screen very reminiscent of the white iPad. The rear on the other hand has a gunmetal finish.

The build of the Quad 8 is really good considering the price point. The tablet has a proprietary charging port and the micro USB port is used only for data transfer. The tablet also supports a mini HDMI out.

Coming to the Quad 9.7 and the quad 10.1, they are quite identical in their design and build. The 9.7-inch tablet has a square design and the 10.1inch tablet is more rectangular. The resolution of the two tablets too is different. Both the devices have a black border around the display and the rear has a gunmetal finish. Their connectivity options too are the same.

Moving on, we have the iberry Auxus Core X4 3G tablet that has a 9.7-inch display. The tablet is the heaviest in this shootout. The rear has a metal finish with plastic on either side (when held in landscape mode). The SIM card slot and the microSD card slot rest under a cover and that is good as it protects the cards. The tablet has a black matte finish which is nice.

The first thing that you will notice when you see the Simmtronics XPAD Mini is that it looks a lot like the iPad mini in its form factor. The tablet has a 7.85-inch display and the rear of the tablet has a gunmetal finish. The tablet supports HDMI out and the design of the tablet is surprisingly comfortable to use. We have seen 7-inch and 10-inch tablets and have adapted ourselves to the format. The 8-inch Zinc Quad 8 was a refreshing change and the same can be said about the



XPAD Mini. It is easy to type with two thumbs in portrait mode but it is landscape where things might take some getting used to. The tablet has a nice slim form factor too.

The Huawei MediaPad 10 Link is quite slim but it isn't the lightest tablet of this shootout. The rear of the tablet has a dual-tone colour, silver and white, with a metal and plastic finish. The rear also has the camera without a flash. The MediaPad 10 Link has a plastic finish with the curvy edges, which makes it comfortable to hold. The rear of the Huawei MediaPad 10 Link houses two speakers and when held in landscape mode, and they are well positioned so that your hands do not cover them.

The Ceros revolution tablet has a build very reminiscent of the iberry CoreX4 3G tablet. The rear is black matte and plain, without any textured finish. There is a physical back button along with the power button but no physical volume rocker. The volume can be controlled only from the touchscreen.

Last but not least, we have both, the first and the secondgeneration Nexus 7 tablets. Starting with the first generation Nexus, the tablet has a compact and slim profile and only a microUSB port as the connectivity option. There is no rear-facing camera and it

Quad-core Tablets

Lowlight cameras under 15k We gathered cameras powered by a BSI Sensor costing less than 15k and tested their prowess http://dgit.in/1aMYyJu



LG G2 in India By the time you get your hands on this magazine, LG will have released its G2 smartphone in India

isn't missed. The tablet has a textured rubberized finish, which adds to the grip, and the tablet is really comfortable to hold. The build quality of the tablet was questionable when it was launched but it is decent for a tablet priced at ₹14,000. The 7-inch form factor is small enough to carry around and still has the potential to be a great tablet.

Coming to the second generation Nexus, this tablet made our jaws drop to the ground with its design and build. It isn't wider than its predecessor but is taller. This time around there is a rearfacing camera as well. The device is really slim and the back has a smooth matte rubberized finish, which is very comfortable to hold. The tablet also showcases stereo speakers and you hear them to their fullest potential while watching action videos. The table has a set of speaker on either side of the micro USB port and a single strip at the opposite end. It is easy to cover the speakers with your hands while holding the device in landscape mode, but this didn't really affect the performance of the speakers greatly. Another design element that we like is that there is some space on the left and the right of the tablet (when held in landscape mode). This gives you real estate to hold the device properly without covering the screen. This may not



be a big deal for some, but considering the size of the tablet, we think it is nifty. Simply put, this is the best-built tablet of the lot.

Features and performance

All the tablets in this shootout run on the Android OS. But that doesn't mean that their performance is the same.

Starting with the Zync triplets, the 8-inch tablet is the best performer of the three. The OS and interface is the same on all the three tablets. They all run on Android 4.1 Jelly Bean. You have access to five customizable home screens and the back, home and multitasking buttons are a part of the display. You also have access to the volume controls and a screenshot button that rests near the multitasking button. The tablets don't come with any preloaded bloatware and that is a good thing. The tablets comes with an app called the 4K VideoPlayer and it's hard to put this claim to the test since there is no 4K content available. The app essentially runs on three modes - Cool Mode, Optimization mode and the energy saving mode.

Coming to the real world performance, only the Zync Quad 8 is an impressive tablet. Even though it lagged at times, it wasn't a frustrating experience using the device. Apps installed and ran well and gen-

> erally using the device was good. There were a few random app crashes, but nothing major to crib about. The display is average at best and has some decent viewing angles. The other two Zync tablets – the Quad 9.7 and the

Quad 10.1 were quite disastrous to use. The Quad 9.7 looks very impressive on paper with a 9.7-inch display showcasing a 2048x1536 pixels resolution. The specifications also looked fair enough to power such a high-resolution display. But this isn't the case in the

real world performance. The tablet is plagued with lag and random crashes. Doing something as simple as switching between applications can be a tedious task. The device may have a nice display with good viewing angles but what's the point when the process of interacting and using it isn't that great.

The same is the case with the Quad 10.1. The tablet didn't lag or crash as much as the 9.7, but it did give us trouble nonetheless. The resolution of the 10-inch tablet isn't as crisp as the Quad 9.7 but it is good. Once again, this tablet too had issues of lag, stutter and random app crashes. Off all the Zync tablets, the Quad 8.0 is the one that we were most happy with.

Moving on the to Simmtronics XPAD Mini, the device is quite comfortable to use. It ran all the apps we threw at it with absolute ease. The touch of the tablet isn't the best, but considering the price point, it is a good performer. Running on Android 4.2, the tablet gives you access to the lock screen apps, which is a nice touch. On full brightness, the display is quite vibrant and has good viewing angles. Watching videos on the tablet is a treat. The keyboard is comfortable to type on in the portrait mode. In landscape mode



Ceros revolution

however, the keyboard feels a bit small. It is stock Android and quite responsive. The tablet has its own share of issues as well. Leaving an app and coming back to the home screen takes its own sweet time and there were moments when we were interacting with the display but nothing happened for a bit. Games run on the tablet but the heavy ones, such as Dead Trigger lag a lot even with basic action on screen.

The iberry Auxus Core X4 3G tablet, as the name suggest shows off the ability to house a SIM card. This is not only used for data consumption via 3G but for making calls as well. The calling capability of the tablet isn't great. It's too big to hold near your ear at 9.7-inches. There is no earpiece and if you forget your headset at home, you have to rely on the built-in speaker, which isn't great. The quality of the microphone too could have been better. Having said that, the tablet did receive the 4.2 Jelly Bean update. It didn't happen OTA. We had to download the update, transfer it to a microSD card and then install it on the tablet. We faced a bit of stutter while playing MKV video but all other formats ran well on the tablet. The performance of games such as Dead Trigger was good on the tablet and the device is big enough to



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PATNA

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Quad-core Tablets



| | | | | OCTOBER 2013 |
|--|------------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Brand | Simmtronics | Zync | Zync | Asus |
| | XPAD Mini | Quad 8 | Quad 9.7 | Nexus 7 |
| | 11,999 | 12,999 | 13,999 | 13,999 |
| | 9,999 | 12,999 | 13,999 | 13,999 |
| Ratings | 0,000 | 12,000 | 10,000 | 10,000 |
| | 17.98 | 19.69 | 18.07 | 22.86 |
| | 21.96 | 13.64 | 28.12 | 21.86 |
| · · · · · · | 19.43 | 18.26 | 16.43 | 20.61 |
| . , | 59.38 | 51.59 | 62.63 | 65.33 |
| . , | 09.38 | 51.59 | 02.03 | 05.33 |
| Specifications | 100- | 1.500- | 1.5GHz | 1.0011- |
| Processor max clock speed | | 1.5GHz | | 1.2GHz |
| Processor cores | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 |
| | 1GB | 2GB | 2GB | 1GB |
| | 7.85-inches/ LCD/1024x768 | 8-inches/LCD/1024x768 | 9.7-inch/LED HD IPS/2048x1536 | 7-inches/IPS LCD/1280x800 |
| Built-in Storage | 8GB | 8GB | 16GB | 32GB |
| Expandable Storage (Y/N) | Y | Y | Y | N |
| Wi-Fi (Y/N)/3G (Y/N) | Y/N | Y/N | Y/N | N/N |
| Battery rating (mAh) | 4000mAh | 5400mAh | 8000mAh | 4325mAh |
| Dimensions (in mm)/ Weight (in gms) | NA | NA/ 471 grams | NA/ 603 grams | 198.5 x 120 x 10.5 mm |
| | Android 4.2 Jelly Bean | Android 4.1 Jelly Bean | Android 4.1 Jelly Bean | Android 4.3 Jelly Bean |
| (tested with) | | | | |
| | Y | Y | Ν | Ν |
| | 2MP/5MP | VGA/5MP | 2MP/5MP | No/1.2MP |
| (MP)/Rear Camera resolution (MP) | | | | |
| | N | Ν | Ν | Ν |
| application store | | | | |
| Build Type | | | | |
| (plastic, metal etc.) | Plastic with a metal finish | Metal Finish | Metal Finish | Rubberized finish |
| , , | Plastic | Gun metal and white | Gun metal and white | Plastic |
| Finish type | Matte | Matte | Matte | Matte |
| (glossy/matte) | | | | |
| Performance (out of 10) | | | | |
| Display Colour Check test | 6.00 | 5.00 | 5.00 | 6.50 |
| Touchscreen response | 7 | 7 | 5 | 8.5 |
| Battery Life (hours) | 6 | 8 | 6 | 6.5 |
| Audio Clarity at 100% | 5.00 | 5.00 | 5.00 | 6.50 |
| Ease of Typing | 7.5 | 8 | 6 | 9 |
| Viewing Angles | 7 | 7 | 6 | 8 |
| Benchmarks / Real world | tests | | | |
| Startup time (switch on till lock screen - in Seconds) | 42.16 | 26.62 | 40.8 | 33.27 |
| | 2666 | 3122 | 3084 | 3737 |
| | 12013 | 12329 | 11446 | 13588 |
| | 4683 | 4906 | 4024 | 3538 |
| 3D mark Ice Storm Extreme | | 2758 | 2340 | 1901 |
| 3D Mark Ice Storm Extreme | | 4096 | 3408 | 3240 |
| Octane Browser Benchmark | | | 800 | 2047 |
| | 090 | 867 | | 3454 |
| | NIA | | | |
| productivity | NA | NA | 2212 2478 | 2439 |

| | COTTRESSION COTTRESSION OCTOBER 2013 | | | Quad-core Tablets |
|-----------------------------|--|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Zync | iberry | Ceros | Asus | Huawei |
| Quad 10.1 | Auxus Core X4 3G | Revolution tablets 9.7 | Nexus 7 (2nd Gen) | MediaPad 10 link |
| 14,999 | 18,000 | 20,000 | 22,100 | 22,500 |
| | | | | |
| 14,999 | 18,000 | 20,000 | 22,100 | 22,500 |
| 18.16 | 22.95 | 23.28 | 35.54 | 23.10 |
| 26.96 | 28.86 | 27.30 | 22.94 | 26.76 |
| | | | | |
| 18.00 | 16.43 | 14.09 | 22.96 | 21.65 |
| 63.12 | 68.25 | 64.66 | 81.45 | 71.51 |
| 1.5GHz | 1.6GHz | 1.6GHz | 1.5GHz | 1.2GHz |
| | | | | 1.2GHZ 4 |
| 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | |
| 2GB | 2GB | 2GB | | 1GB |
| 10.1-inch/ LCD/1920x1200 | 9.7-inch/IPS/ 1024x768 | 9.7-inch/IPS LCD/ 2048x1536 | LCD/1200x1920 | 10.1-inch/IPS LCD/1280x800 |
| 16GB | 16GB | 16GB | | 16GB |
| Y | Y | Y | | Y |
| Y/N | Y/Y | Y/N | Y/N | Y/Y |
| 8000mAh | 7200mAh | 8000mAh | 3950mAh | 6600Mah |
| NA/417 grams | 246 x 197 x 11 mm/ 612grams | 240 x 187x 9.8 mm/ 596 grams | 200 x 114 x 8.7 mm/ 290 grams | 257.4 x 175.9 x 9.9 mm/ 620 grams |
| Android 4.1 Jelly Bean | Android 4.2 Jelly Bean | Android 4.2 Jelly Bean | Android 4.3 Jelly Bean | Android 4.1 Jelly Bean |
| Υ | Y | Y | Ν | Ν |
| 2MP/5MP | 0.3MP/2MP | 0.3MP/5MP | 1.2MP/5MP | VGA/3.15MP |
| Ν | Ν | Ν | Ν | Ν |
| Metal Finish | Plastic and metal | Plastic | Plastic with a | Metal Finish |
| Metal Fillish | Flastic and metal | Flastic | rubberized finish | Metal Finish |
| Gun metal and white | Black | Black | Plastic | Gun metal and white |
| | | Matte | | |
| Matte | Matte | Matte | Matte | Matte |
| 5.00 | 6.00 | 6.00 | 8.00 | 6.50 |
| 5 | 6.5 | 6.5 | 9 | 8 |
| 6 | 6.6 | 8 | 10 | 6.5 |
| 5.00 | 5.50 | 6.00 | 7.50 | 7.50 |
| 7 | 7 | 6 | | 8 |
| 7 | 7 | 7 | 9 | 8 |
| 1 | 1 | 1 | 5 | 0 |
| 40.55 | 18.02 | 43.44 | 18.69 | 23.89 |
| 3084 | 5281 | 5224 | 5118 | 4464 |
| 11626 | 15254 | 18031 | | 14794 |
| 4024 | 3286 | 3284 | MAX | |
| 2394 | 2426 | 2557 | | 2946 1619 |
| | | | | |
| 3408 | 3132 | 3981 | 10972 | 2843 |
| 799 | 1322 | 1879 | | 1678 |
| 2293 | 4791 | 3728 | 4842 | 4206 |
| 2487 | 1952 | 1372 | 3259 | 2729 |

Quad-core Tablets

HP's built-in leap motion HP's latest PC with a Leap Motion sensor allows users to perform tasks without touching it http://dgit.in/14uyyh9

Shape-shifting lens A fluid-filled lens that can adjust focus like a human eye is in the works at Ohio State University

HOW WE TESTED

A ndroid tablets have been around for quite some time now and its only in the past year that we started seeing devices that are priced around ₹20,000 and boast of a quad-core processor giving you a smooth experience along with the ability to run all the apps available on the Google Play store. A tablet today is essentially used for a few primary functions including web browsing, watching movies and videos, playing games, running utility apps, the occasional spreadsheet, document typing/editing, with some social networking thrown into the mix. Gaming on the tablet too has become quite addictive especially since graphically heavy games such as Real Racing 3 and Dead Trigger have found their way onto people's fingertips. To ensure that a tablet can perform these tasks well, we used a series of subjective and objective tests to measure their performance.

Benchmarks

The objective tests are a series of benchmarks that measure the performance of the hardware powering the tablets. These benchmarks are Quadrant, Antutu, 3DMark, GFXBench and SmartBench. They give us an objective idea of how the tablets will perform when used for productivity and multitasking. The benchmarks also give us an understanding of how games will perform on the tablet, especially the ones that demand a lot of power under the hood. There is also a test that measures the efficiency of the preloaded browser on the device called the Octane Browser Benchmark. This test essentially tells us how the browser will perform especially if you are one who likes to browse heavy-duty websites.

The above-mentioned benchmarks give out a score (higher is better) and objectively measure the performance of the hardware.

Gaming

One of the biggest uses of a tablet today is to play games on the go. Some of the games that are available for tablets are graphically heavy and need some power to run smoothly. As a standard, we played quite a bit of Dead Trigger, Angry Birds Star Wars, Real Racing 3 and Temple Run 2. These are some of the most popular games on the Google Play store and represent elements from the graphically heavy (Dead Trigger and Real Racing 3) to the average everyday games (Temple Run 2). While playing these games, we look out for issues such as screen lag, input lag, stutter etc. There are also benchmarks, 3D Mark and GFX Bench (Egypt HD on screen and off screen) that measures the gaming capabilities of the tablet. In all these cases, a higher score means better performance.

Display

There are two ways in which we test the display of the tablet. The subjective test is where we interact with the display, play games, type, browse the web, read an eBook, and more to see how responsive the display is. As an objective test, we use an app called Display Tester Pro. With the help of the app, we measure the colour banding, contrast and saturation to see if the reproduction of content on the display is accurate. The test also helps us measure the viewing angles, white noise and grey noise produced on the display of the tablet.

Start up

Beyond benchmarks, we also tested the start-up time of these devices to see how long it takes for the tablets to reach the lock screen from the power off mode. This was done after factory resetting the tablets, doing the required logins at the first startup, and restarting the device again. No apps were installed prior to this test, except for the ones that came preloaded.

Multimedia

Since today's tablets offer multimedia capabilities, we ran a bunch of videos on the tablet. We tested the devices with all the popular formats (MP4, MKV and AVI). The videos included SD as well as HD content. We judged the ability of the device to play the video formats smoothly – jumping forwards and backward on the playtimeline to check for stutters, freeze, crashes etc. The quality and experience offered by the display was taken into account as well - viewing angles, colour reproduction, crispness, brightness etc. We also played a bunch of MP3 songs to see how the speakers performed.

Calling capabilities

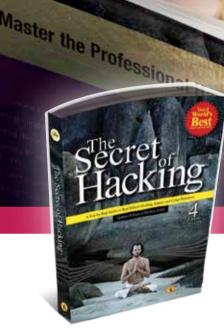
Some of the tablets available in this price range have the ability to make calls. Although this isn't a primary function of the tablet, its presence is valued nonetheless. To see how the tablet performed with its calling capabilities, we used the device as a phone in a variety of situations such as noisy environments, absolute silence and while commuting. Here we take into account the crispness of the call quality and the signal strength.

Build

Since a tablet is considered as a "lifestyle" device, we have also taken into consideration the build quality, plastics used, slimness of the device and its overall feel in our hands. There are multiple parameters on which each tablet is rated, before we reach one final build quality score.

Battery life

To test the longevity of the battery on the tablet, we ran a video in loop to see how long it lasts. The battery was charged to 100%. We ran an MP4 720p movie on loop with the brightness and audio at maximum. The amount of time taken by the device to reach 0% battery level is determined as the battery life. Please note that if you use the device more conservatively (switch off location services, reduce the brightness and volume, etc.), it will last longer.



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Author's Brief Profile

Manish Kumar, PHD Information Security-UK MS-ISS—Germany, CISSP, CHFI, ECSA, CEH, RHCE

Manish Kumar is a CISO, Security Researcher, author, speaker and a life-long entrepreneur. He is Co-Founder of Leo Impact and is known for creating creative ideas & found logical solutions. He was appeared on NDTV, CNN Money Online, etc. He has also been worked with the Various Army & Govt. Departments like MI, SI, CAB SEC. CERT, etc and various banks including American Express & SBI group.

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Quad-core Tablets



An insect's POV A research team at the University of Illinois have created a camera that views the world from an insect's point of view http://dgit.in/18KxdGc

have a comfortable gaming experience. The overall performance of the tablet was quite good especially after the OS update. Swiping between apps, browsing the Internet, was a good experience. Overall, and more so because of the OS update, this tablet gave us good overall performance. Typing on and the response of the touchscreen too are good.

The Ceros Revolution Tablet 9.7 runs on Android 4.2 Jelly Bean and has a few preloaded UI elements. The tablet is relatively smooth when swiping on the display or in the apps listing page, but we have seen it lag during multitasking. Videos and games



Zync Quad 10.1

ran smoothly on the tablet and its real world performance is at par with the iBerry Auxus Core X4 3G tablet. A graphically heavy game like Real Racing 3 ran on the tablet but there were some serious frame rate issues. A physical volume rocker is missed on the tablet. While playing Dead Trigger we needed to reduce the volume, but didn't know which of the five dots at the bottom of the display was the volume control (the controls becomes dots when you are in an app) and ended up going to the home screen or pressing the multitasking button. This isn't a big deal, but it does hamper your user experience.

The Huawei MediaPad 10 Link runs on Android 4.1 Jelly Bean and Huawei has its own custom Emotion UI overlaving the OS. It is the only tablet in the shootout to have a custom UI. The first thing that you will notice about the UI is that you don't have the standard apps and widgets listing page that we are used to seeing on all other Android tablets. Instead you have all the apps listed on the home screens, something we are used to seeing on iOS. You can also stack them into folders depending on your requirement.

When customizing the home screen with widgets, the bottom half of the Huawei MediaPad 10

> Link's display has the widgets and the top half has the home screens making the interface quite seamless. To access the widgets all you need to do is long press on the home screen.

> Taking a look at the real world performance of the

Huawei MediaPad 10 Link, it is quite good. Browsing the internet, playing games, watching movies and interacting with the touchscreen was good. The MediaPad 10 Link also has the ability to house a SIM card for data only. The tablet can't make calls. The audio output from the speakers is really loud. There are two speakers that are housed at the back of the tablet and the MediaPad 10 link also boasts of Dolby Digital Plus. You have the option to switch this off, use it in movie or music mode. For its price, the performance on offer in the MediaPad 10 Link is good.

The biggest advantage of owning a Nexus device is that

you are the first to receive the Android OS update. The raw Android experience is the smoothest there is. Coming to the first generation Nexus 7, the tablet's performance has improved significantly ever since the Android 4.3 update. Its benchmark scores have however

remained the same. The interface of the tablet is the smoothest there is and all the apps and games ran very well. The performance of the display is a bit underwhelming when it comes to the reproduction of colours and the viewing angles. Playing games, watching movies and more was a treat on the tablet, but the audio from the built in speaker was lower than we'd like. Another disadvantage is that the tablet doesn't support expandable storage.

Last but not least, we have beh the second generation Nexus the and boy-o-boy is this tablet a wh treat to use. Starting with the ous touch screen, it responds to a The feather touch. Typing on the good device, especially in portrait The mode is very comfortable. The wa display is vibrant, gorgeous and has the best col-



our reproduction and viewing angles of the lot. All the games, apps and videos we played on the tablet ran smoothly and without any hiccups. There was a time when the device was circulated between a few of us in the lab and we were all impressed with the overall multi-tasking.

Quite a few apps on the tablet had been switched on and the interface was still smooth. Even in the benchmark scores, the second generation Nexus 7 left the competition way behind. The audio output from the speakers too has improved when compared to the previous generation Nexus tablet. The stereo speakers also give a good effect of channel shift. This is more evident when watching action movies. The

battery life of the tablet too is one of the best. In



Rept

Google Glass in Indian villages

Dr J S Rajkumar, who live-streamed an operation to his students sees the potential in it for docs in rural areas http://dgit.in/18iwPuI

Handsfree camera

Rideye is a mountable video camera with crash detection sensors aimed at city cyclists http://rideye.com/

Quad-core Tablets

Nexus 7

(Second

deneration)



our continuous video playback, it lasted for nearly 10 hours and that is very good. Overall, for the price you pay, the package on offer is quite brilliant.

Winners

There are just nine tablets around the ₹20,000 price point that participated in this shootout and a few of the tablets disappointed us considering the specifications they offer were quite good but the real world usage wasn't. What we

noticed was that specifications such as Quad-core processor and 2GB RAM seems like a dream on paper, but the real world use was a different story entirely. Nonetheless, there are those tablets that stood out when compared to the rest. Best performer: When we ran the 3D mark Ice Storm benchmark on the

PLEASE NOTE

The Nexus 7, second-generation tablet isn't officially available in India yet. We acquired the tablet through our personal sources. The device can be purchased through online portals such as ebay. It supports global warranty. Since the tablet is the epitome of what an Android tablet should be, especially around the Rs. 20,000 price point, we thought it essential to include the device in this shootout.

> Nexus 7 (Second Generation), the result said maxed out. We have not seen such a result on any other tablet that we have tested and that is saying something. If you want the best performing tablet be in terms of raw performance, smooth

OS, multimedia or gaming, this is the tablet for you. It has a great battery life as well.

Even though the device isn't officially available in India, you can purchase it from online shopping portals. The device will come with global warranty as well.

Best Value:

For its price point, the first generation **Nexus 7** is the best, especially if you are on a budget. The raw

unadulterated Android experience on the tablet is smooth. The biggest plus point is that the tablet will be the first to receive the Android OS updates. It performed very well in our tests too showcasing good multitasking capabilities, a smooth touchscreen and the ability to run all the apps from the Google Play store. The device has a compact from factor along with a good display.

Editors Pick:

a n

The only con with the **iBerry** Auxus Core X4 3G tablet is that the calling capabilities of the tablet and are underwhelming. Ever since we installed the Android 4.2 update on the tablet we like the package on offer. The device still lags and stutters, but this is very less when compared to the competition. All the apps work on the tablet and the touchscreen response is good. If you want a large screen tablet and do not want to cross the ₹20,000 thresh hold, you should consider this device. 🚺





Google gets health conscious Google ventured into healthcare with the

Google ventured into healthcare with the announcement of Calico, a company focused on well being http://dgit.in/1802It5

DATA

Facebook bans advertiser

FB apologised and banned an advertiser for using a deceased teenager's image in an ad for a dating website **http://dgit.in/lfpXJpv**

Siddhant Sharma readersletters@thinkdigit.com

pace is what we all want, be it in our house, our living room, our car, or even on our bed. We all desire more space because it lets us add more stuff. What we wish to convey is that, since we all use computers, tablets and cell phones, storage space has been one of the most important factors for buyers. This is perfectly plausible because the amount of content we come across daily is staggering. One of the most consumed type of content is multimedia and it requires a whole lot more space than documents or spreadsheets for that matter. The internet provides us with so much content, especially in the form of torrents that we are sure most of us have our hard drives filled with. So we usually go about buying a new one once the old one is completely filled. Pen drives just don't cut it when it comes to transferring huge files and this is where portable hard drives come into picture. Portable hard drives are different from regular external hard drives in the sense that portable drives don't require an external

We put 16 USB 3.0 portable hard drives to the test to pick out the best ones from among them for your storage needs

power. Just take a portable hard drive, slide it in your pocket or bag along with a short data cable and you're good to go. This makes life easy for most of us who move to and fro between our work and home and always need to carry our important files along with us.

Due to the recent surge of the Dollar-Rupee exchange rate the price of components has gone up but nevertheless it's still not too late to get a portable hard drive at a reasonable price. And this test should help you make an informed decision. All the drives that we received for the test were USB 3.0 drives and one drive that also had a Thunderbolt interface. We've performed quite a few tests to gauge the performance of each drive. And since most people have different capacity requirements, we've grouped the drives into two simple categories. The first category contains drives that provide up to 500GB of storage space. And for users who need more we have the other category consisting of drives ranging from one terabyte to two terabytes.

Without further ado, let's take an in-depth look at both categories so that its easier for you to pick one that best fulfils your storage needs.

500GB DRIVES

These portable drives are for people who have low to moderate space requirements. Ideally, 500GB drives are best suited for people who consume a huge volume of data and don't intend to store anything for long. We received six 500GB drives for the comparison and while testing them we were shocked at how fast some of the drives were, specially during real world transfer tests. The 4GB sample files transferred just under 9 seconds. Turns out that most of these drives have plenty of cache memory which in turn allowed



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Portable HDDs Test

HOW WE TESTED

For performance testing, we divided our tests into two categories - synthetic tests and real world tests. Synthetic benchmarks give an overview of the raw performance for everv drive. Our tests included a full run of PC Mark 8 storage benchmark which gave us thorough results along with the time taken to run application based tests using Adobe Photoshop, Adobe After Effects, Microsoft Powerpoint and Battlefield 3 to name a few. Next we used Crystal Disk Mark to run 3 passes of 0x00 Fill and Random Fill. We took into account the sequential and 512K read and write scores using a test sample of 100MB. The next synthetic benchmark used was the SiSoft Sandra 2013 to obtain drive index read and write scores along with the access time for data read and write. Real world tests give an accurate account of what a user should expect from a particular drive. So for real world scores, single file read and write tests were done using a 4GB and a 20GB file separately. For multiple file transfer tests, we used similar data sets totalling up to a collection of 4 GB and 20 GB each, of assorted files. Intra drive tests were also done to know about transfer rate for read and write within the same drive by creating two partitions. We used a digital stopwatch to record the file write and file read timings for all the single and assorted read/write tests.

The test rig that we used for the comparison test had the following configuration:

- Processor: Intel 4th Gen Core i7 4770K;
- Motherboard: ASRock Z87 Extreme 6;
- RAM: ADATA AX3U2133XW4G10-2X (4 DIMMs x 4GB=16GB total)
- Primary storage: 2 x Kingston Hyper-X 120GB SSD SH100S3-120G in RAID;
- GPU: Onboard;
- CPU Cooler: Cooler Master Hyper 212X;
- Power Supply: Cooler Master Silent Pro 850;
- Cabinet: Cooler Master HAF-XM;
- Monitor: DELL S2740L;
- Operating System: Windows 7 SP1.

We used top of the line components to prevent bottlenecks in performance to ensure the tests go smoothly and the results are accurate. Once we were done, we set parameters to judge for aspects such as Build Quality, Performance and features for comparison. We assessed the build quality of each drive by taking into account their body material, padding and feet of the drive. So a drive that had a full metal body with good finishing received more points than the drives having plastic bodies. If a drive was padded with a rubber outer covering then it received extra points for that as well. Some grip is always good for portable HDDs especially when they are kept on uneven surfaces or table tops and the feet of the drive help in that sense, so we assigned points to drives that had rubber or silicone feet.

For comparing drives according to their features, we assigned points to each drive based on a few areas. If a drive supports or comes with backup, encryption and social media backup utilities then it got points for that. Everything is moving towards cloud storage so the drives that allow you to store or access content from various cloud storage services fared well in terms of points for features. Performance is something that defines a product, so we gave performance the maximum weightage in the comparison. Finally we categorically divided the drives according to their size. Two categories were made, one with 500GB drives and the other with drives having a storage space of 1TB or more.

the drives to complete small file transfers with great ease. Compared to previous generation drives, the performance increase is enormous and the 5Gbit/s USB 3.0 threshold was easy to hit.

Design wise, the ADATA HE720 was the most sophisticated looking. It is completely enclosed in a full metal stainless steel body and is one of the slimmest drives we've come across. The drive has a brushed metal finish coupled with a glossy metal band around the middle region. It has a one-touch backup button at the front that triggers the ADA-TASync utility which comes preinstalled on the drive. This drive also supports ADATA's HDD-to -Go utility that can be used to install and run portable software directly from the HE720.

The Buffalo Ministation Thunderbolt HD-PATU3 was

another well built drive and was the only one to sport a USB 3.0 port and Apple's Thunderbolt interface. The drive is encased inside an aluminium casing which covers the sides and the bottom. The top part of the drive is made out of translucent plastic and is fixed well. Though bigger and bulkier than all other 500GB drives in the test the Buffalo Ministation is built sturdily. And has a design reminiscent to that of apple products. It comes with a single Thunderbolt port which means that you can only daisy-chain this drive with other Thunderbolt compatible products. They've bundled a Thunderbolt cable with the drive as well. Thunderbolt as a standard offers a bandwidth of up to 10Gbit/s but in order to compare its results with the other drives in the test we used the USB 3.0 interface only. The HD-PATU3 has support for Mac Time machine backup software.

The SimpleSave P2O5OB from HP also had a brushed aluminium finish but only one some sides of the metal casing. The drive is designed to mimic the shape of a book with one side made of metal and the other in plastic. However, we would've liked a full metal body. The HP 2O5OB's PC Mark 8 scores were lower than most other 500GB drives and fared



ADATA DashDrive HE720

well in a few real world tests. But synthetic tests didn't put the drive much ahead of the competition.

Seagate's Slim 500GB drive has a standard rectangular shape made out of plain black thin metal. The drive comes with a SATA-to-USB 3.0 adapter attached to it. The main idea behind providing a removable adapter with the drive is that you get the flexibility to remove the included adapter and purchase a Thunderbolt or Fire-Wire based adapter and use this drive with any of the three interfaces. Seagate Dashboard software is easy to navigate through and allows you to perform instant and scheduled backup operations. Performance wise the Seagate Slim STCD500400 was the least performing of the pack but its features helped redeem itself. Given a low street price of just ₹4,150 this drive is worthy of consideration.





| | OCTOBER 2013 | | | | OCTOBER 2013 | | |
|---|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------|
| Hard Drive Category | 500 GB Drive | | | | | | 1TB or more Drives |
| Brand | ADATA | Buffalo | HP | Seagate | Toshiba | Toshiba | ADATA |
| Model Name | DashDrive | Ministation Thunderbolt | SimpleSave | Slim SRD0SP0 | Canvio Slim | Canvio Simple | DashDrive |
| Model Number | HE720 (AHE720- 500GU3-CTI) | | P2050B | STCD500400 | | DTP105 | HV620 (AHV620- 1TU3-CBK) |
| Capacity (GB) | 500 | 500 | 500 | 500 | 500 | 500 | 1000 |
| Cost Per GB (in ₹) | 9.65 | 37.55 | 8.36 | 8.9 | 10.4 | 8.36 | 5.04 |
| Warranty | 3 years | 3 years | 2 years | 3 years | 3 years | 3 years | 3 years |
| Price (Internet e-tailer prices) | 4,500 | 17,500 | 3,899 | 4,150 | 4,850 | 3,900 | 4,700 |
| Specifications | (00 | (00 | (00 | (00 | (00 | (00 | 000 |
| HDD capacity (unformatted) (GB) | 466 | 466 | 466 | 466 | 466 | 466 | 932 |
| Interface (External/Internal) | USB 3.0/ SATA3 | USB 3.0/ SATA3 | USB 3.0/ SATA3 | USB 3.0/ SATA3 | USB 3.0/ SATA3 | USB 3.0/ SATA3 | USB 3.0/ SATA3 |
| Rotational Speed (RPM) | 5400 | 5400 | 5400 | 5400 | 5400 | 5400 | 5400 |
| Buffer Size (MB) | 16 | 8 | 8 | 16 | 8 | 8 | 8 |
| Overall Scores | | | | | | | |
| Features (Out of 40) | 26 | 0 | 14 | 18 | 26 | 0 | 26 |
| Performance (Out of 50) | 39.71 | 39.65 | 39.34 | 37.98 | 39.69 | 39.03 | 39.92 |
| Build Quality (Out of 10) | 2.5 | 4.5 | 4 | 2.5 | 2.5 | 3 | 1 |
| Grand Total (Out of 100) | 68.21 | 44.15 | 57.34 | 58.48 | 68.19 | 42.03 | 66.92 |
| Features (Y/N) | | | | | | | |
| Backup/Encryption/Social Media utility (Y/N) | Y/Y/Y | N/N/N | Y/N/Y | Y/N/Y | Y/Y/Y | N/N/N | Y/Y/Y |
| Cloud Storage/ Capacity | N/NA | N/NA | N/NA | Y/4GB | N/NA | N/NA | N/NA |
| Internal HDD model | Seagate ST500LT012- 9WS142 | Seagate ST500LM012 HN-M500MBB | Toshiba MQ01ABD050 | Seagate ST500LT012- 9WS142 | Toshiba MQ01UBF050 | Toshiba MQ01ABD050 | Toshiba MQ01ABD100 |
| Rugged Drive/Cloth cover (Y/N) | N/N | N/N | N/N | N/N | N/N | N/N | N/N |
| Performance | | | | | | | |
| PC Mark 8 Storage Benchmark | | | | | | | |
| Overall Storage Score | 1864 | 1818 | 1763 | 1872 | 1816 | 1821 | 1875 |
| Storage Bandwidth (in MB/s) | 5.94 | 5.75 | 5.41 | 5.98 | 5.71 | 5.72 | 5.99 |
| World of Warcraft | 143.3 | 154.1 | 148.8 | 142.6 | 147.4 | 147.2 | 143.2 |
| Battlefield 3 | 413 | 432.4 | 429.3 | 415.3 | 426.5 | 421.1 | 413.7 |
| Adobe Photoshop Light | 269.3 | 262.2 | 291.5 | 266 | 265.6 | 264.3 | 257.9 |
| Adobe Photoshop Heavy | 563.6 | 540.5 | 614.2 | 563.1 | 570.7 | 576.6 | 568.8 |
| Adobe After Effects | 195.3 | 203.6 | 202.7 | 194.4 | 202.1 | 201.7 | 193.7 |
| Adobe Illustrator | 220.9 | 231.1 | 232.6 | 218.5 | 231.5 | 229.9 | 219.2 |
| Microsoft Word | 53.7 | 54.6 | 56.4 | 53.6 | 54.7 | 54.5 | 54 |
| Benchmark Duration (in sec) | 9095 | 8977 | 9922 | 9101 | 9162 | 9138 | 10078 |
| Crystal Disk Mark in MBps (3 Test | | | 110 | 101.0 | 1107 | 111 | 1105 |
| Sequential Read | 111.2 | 113.9 | 118 | 101.6 | 113.7 | 111 | 116.5 |
| 512K Read | 41.67 | 39.28 | 42.6 | 39.53 | 41.02 | 41.73 | 40.63 |
| Sequential Write | 108.6 | 113.9 | 106.7 | 98.1 | 110.8 | 107.9 | 112.7 |
| 512K Write Crystal Disk Mark in MBps (3 Test | 51.89 Bung Bandam | 51.28 | 19.96 | 53.49 | 55.22 | 54.2 | 57.6 |
| | 111 | 113.9 | 118 | 101.6 | 113.7 | 111 | 116.5 |
| Sequential Read 512K Read | 41.86 | 39.73 | 42.57 | 38.96 | 41.8 | 41.53 | 41.36 |
| Sequential Write | 108.1 | 113.9 | 106.9 | 98.07 | 110.8 | 108.1 | 112.4 |
| 512K Write | 53.29 | 49.84 | 19.26 | 51.08 | 58.72 | 54.3 | 55.86 |
| SiSoft Sandra 2013 | 00.20 | 10.01 | 10.20 | 01.00 | 00.12 | 07.0 | 00.00 |
| Drive Index, Read (MBps) | 85.89 | 85.74 | 90.64 | 79.74 | 89 | 89 | 88.71 |
| Access Time, read (ms) | 19.19 | 15.73 | 14.61 | 15.75 | 15 | 15 | 15.08 |
| Drive Index, Write (MBps) | 82 | 83.23 | 85 | 75 | 84.91 | 84.59 | 85.68 |
| Access time, write (ms) | 12.2 | 9.81 | 9.32 | 11 | 7.56 | 8 | 8.18 |
| Real World Tests in secs (lower is | | 0.01 | 0.02 | 11 | 1.00 | 0 | 0.10 |
| File Write 4 GB Single File | 39.33 | 38.22 | 36.65 | 43.41 | 37.97 | 37.67 | 37.58 |
| File Write 20 GB Single File | 191.47 | 188.85 | 181.11 | 213.72 | 186.53 | 186.23 | 187.97 |
| File Write Test Assorted 4 GB File | 66.58 | 51.11 | 42.46 | 74.52 | 72.42 | 132.16 | 73.32 |
| File Write Test Assorted 20 GB File | 192.48 | 258.03 | 215.98 | 377.85 | 359.21 | 371.67 | 377.4 |
| Read Test Single 4 GB File | 9.09 | 8.97 | 9.25 | 9.42 | 9.05 | 9.67 | 8.89 |
| Read Test Single 20 GB File | 190.2 | 188.17 | 179.89 | 210.1 | 186.02 | 185.72 | 186.17 |
| Read Test Assorted 4 GB File | 10.3 | 11.05 | 10.11 | 11.31 | 10.26 | 11.35 | 10.5 |
| Read Test Assorted 20 GB File | 190.1 | 194.71 | 187.32 | 180.06 | 193.36 | 193.29 | 192.73 |
| Intra Drive Test (Read/Write) Sequential 4 GB File | 47.21 | 46.97 | 45.11 | 51.36 | 45.48 | 45.89 | 47.08 |
| Intra Drive Test (Read/Write) | 75.51 | 61.47 | 48.33 | 80.38 | 77.35 | 78.27 | 79.72 |
| Assorted 4 GB File Build Quality | | | | | | | |
| Body Material (Metal/Plastic) | Metal | Metal | Metal | Metal | Metal | Plastic | Plastic |
| Padding/Rubber or Silicone feet (Y/N) | | N/Y | N/Y | N/N | N/N | N/Y | N/N |
| | | | | | | | |

| ill ST | PERFORMER | |
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| ADATA | HP | Seagate | Silicon Power | Transcend | Toshiba | Toshiba | Toshiba | Western Digital |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| DashDrive Durable | SimpleSave | Backup Plus | Armor | StoreJet | Canvio Simple | Canvio Connect | | My Passport Ultra |
| HD710 (AHD710- 1TU3-CBL) | P2100R | SRD0SP0 | A15 (SP010- TBPHDA15S3K) | 25M3 | DTP110 | v73600-C | V63700-H | WDBZFP0010BBK EESN |
| 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 2000 | 1000 |
| 5.9 | 6.06 | 4.97 | 5.79 | 5.25 | 5.55 | 6.04 | 5.63 | 6.09 |
| 3 years | 2 years | 3 years | 3 years | 3 years | 3 years | 3 years | 3 years | 3 years |
| 5,500 | 5,650 | 4,640 | 5,400 | 4,900 | 5,175 | 5,625 | 10,500 | 5,675 |
| 932 | 932 | 932 | 932 | 932 | 932 | 931 | 1863 | 931 |
| USB 3.0/ | USB 3.0/ | | | | USB 3.0/ | USB 3.0/ | USB 3.0/ | |
| SATA3 | SATA3 | | USB 3.0/SATA3 | USB 3.0/SATA3 | SATA3 | SATA3 | SATA3 | USB 3.0/SATA3 |
| 5400 | 5400 | 5400 | 5400 | 5400 | 5400 | 5400 | 5400 | 5400 |
| 8 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 8 |
| 32 | 14 | 18 | 32 | 32 | 0 | 18 | 0 | 34 |
| 32 39.63 | 14 39.4 | 39.74 | 41.71 | 32 37.93 | 0 40.28 | 40.62 | 39.19 | 41.63 |
| 6 6 | 39.4 4 | 1 | 7 | 5.5 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| 77.63 | 57.4 | 58.74 | 80.71 | 75.43 | 43.28 | 61.62 | 42.19 | 78.63 |
| | | | | | | | | |
| Y/Y/Y | Y/N/Y | Y/N/Y | Y/Y/Y | Y/Y/Y | N/N/N | Y/N/Y | N/N/N | Y/Y/Y |
| N/NA | N/NA | Y/4GB | N/NA | N/NA | N/NA | Y/10GB | N/NA | Y/3GB |
| Toshiba MQ01ABD100 | Toshiba MQ01ABD100 | Seagate ST1000LM024 HN-M101MBB | Toshiba MQ01ABD100 | Seagate ST1000LM024 HN-M101MBB | Toshiba MQ01ABD100 | Toshiba MQ01UBD100 | Toshiba MQ01ABB200 | WDC WD10JMVW 11AJGS0 |
| Y/N | N/N | N/N | Y/N | Y/N | N/N | N/N | N/N | N/Y |
| | | | 1/13 | .,,,, | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | |
| 1876 | 1824 | 1923 | 1877 | 1916 | 1879 | 1870 | 1805 | 1949 |
| 6 | 5.71 | 6.3 | 6.01 | 6.26 | 6.02 | 5.97 | 5.65 | 6.41 |
| 142.8 | 143.4 | 148 | 143.8 | 145.9 | 143.4 | 144.4 | 151.2 | 140.7 |
| 422.3 | 421.8 | 417.4 | 422.2 | 420.4 | 420.6 | 421.9 | 441.4 | 402.7 |
| 255.6 | 282.3 | 240.5 | 254.2 | 246.9 | 254.9 | 256 | 260.9 | 242.3 |
| 563.9 | 601.9 | 517.8 | 563.5 | 521.6 | 561 | 564.6 | 568.2 | 527.6 |
| 193 | 194.7 | 181.5 207 | 192.4 | 188 | 193 | 193.7 | 199.8 | 184.1 |
| 220.2 54.1 | 223.7 55.1 | 54.6 | 220.4 53.7 | 214.8 53.3 | 219.5 53.9 | 220.6 54 | 226.9 55.7 | 207.8 53.1 |
| 10060 | 10650 | 9702 | 10062 | 9763 | 10081 | 10107 | 12875 | 10115 |
| 10000 | 10000 | 0102 | 10002 | 0100 | 10001 | 10101 | 12010 | 10110 |
| 112.4 | 115.1 | 112.3 | 121 | 109.8 | 116.5 | 116.5 | 118 | 111.2 |
| 40.17 | 41.34 | 39.89 | 41.64 | 36.99 | 40.94 | 40.77 | 36.52 | 45.57 |
| 105.8 | 104.3 | 110.1 | 117.5 | 109.5 | 113.3 | 113.3 | 117.1 | 106.9 |
| 55.43 | 19.65 | 49.28 | 59.14 | 50.81 | 58.9 | 58.6 | 50.07 | 71.63 |
| 110 / | 1151 | 110.0 | 101 | 100.0 | 110 5 | 110 5 | 110 | 111 / |
| 112.4 | 115.1 | 112.3 | 121 40.76 | 109.6 | 116.5 | 116.5 | 118 | 111.4 46.09 |
| 39.58 105.7 | 41.63 103.3 | 40.16 109.2 | 117.5 | 37.49 109.2 | 41.21 113.1 | 41.41 112.7 | 37.21 116.5 | 107.1 |
| 53.98 | 21.32 | 49.38 | 59.08 | 52.29 | 58.14 | 58.16 | 50.36 | 72.4 |
| | 21.02 | . 3.00 | 00.00 | 02.20 | 00.11 | 00.10 | 00.00 | |
| 88.66 | 88.26 | 82.45 | 90.68 | 83 | 91.37 | 91.31 | 92.24 | 82 |
| 15.57 | 15.45 | 15.18 | 15.38 | 15.4 | 15 | 15.1 | 15.33 | 15.47 |
| 85.1 | 85.32 | 79 | 90.76 | 80.32 | 88.65 | 87.85 | 88.4 | 81.41 |
| 7.86 | 8.32 | 18.52 | 14.85 | 14.38 | 8.1 | 8.23 | 11.18 | 7.2 |
| 37.4 | 38.23 | 40.12 | 36.23 | 38.77 | 36.74 | 36.87 | 36.23 | 40.93 |
| 189.41 | 187.06 | 195.15 | 179.4 | 193.85 | 180.21 | 181.73 | 179.16 | 200.47 |
| 72.29 | 43.43 | 54.28 | 43.29 | 101.51 | 70.67 | 71.39 | 71.28 | 46.85 |
| 369.85 | 219.72 | 267.89 | 208.73 | 560.73 | 366.1 | 364.77 | 371.4 | 243.84 |
| 8.98 | 9.55 | 9.11 | 8.91 | 9.12 | 9.59 | 8.51 | 8.42 | 8.81 |
| 189.59 | 185.79 | 190.7 | 178.35 | 193.77 | 179.27 | 180.61 | 177.67 | 200.53 |
| 10.23 | 10.33 | 10.83 | 10.23 | 11.1 | 10.67 | 10.56 | 9.96 | 10.31 |
| 188.48 | 191.3 | 198.28 | 186.43 | 283.91 | 186.89 | 162.14 | 185.85 | 206.53 |
| 46.12 | 46.47 | 49.98 | 45.15 | 49.61 | 45.35 | 44.66 | 44.85 | 50.67 |
| 78.96 | 49.49 | 52.58 | 47.32 | 112.47 | 78.32 | 78.41 | 79.47 | 57.84 |
| Diant's | Matal | Diasti- | Diasti- | Directi- | Diastia | Diant's | Diant'- | Diantic |
| Plastic | Metal | Plastic | Plastic | Plastic | Plastic | Plastic | Plastic | Plastic |
| Y/Y | N/Y | N/N | Y/Y | Y/Y | N/Y | N/Y | N/Y | N/Y |



Child of Light looks good Check out why UbiSoft's upcoming Child of Light might just be the next best RPG. http://dgit.in/15JuBpD



Ballmer's problem In a post-PC era, Microsoft's finding it difficult to quit the PC industry http://dgit.in/15JDW0L

The Toshiba Canvio Slim S-3600A was another slim drive in the comparison. In fact, the S-3600A was the smallest drive when compared to the others. It has an appealing design with a black brushed metal casing and silver coloured accents along the sides. Toshiba's backup software greatly adds to the Canvio Slim's features. The performance of the S-3600A is good and it is a decent drive for ₹4850. The next 500GB drive is again from Toshiba – the

Toshiba Canvio Slim S-3600A

DTP105. While not as well built as the S-3600A it has a curved design at the sides and a brushed plastic top. A noteworthy feature of this drive is the internal shock sensor. While in operation, the drive senses if it is falling and powers down before hitting the floor. The performance of the Toshiba Canvio Simple DTP105 was at par with most of the drives but its brother – the Toshiba S-3600A was better.

Verdict (500GB Drives)

Among the six 500GB drives we received for the comparison, we were happy to see that most of them had a strong metal body which is something we'd like to see with all upcoming drives. The difference in performance between most of the drives featured here is very low but the features and build quality scores allowed for an accurate comparison. The **ADATA DashDrive HE720** wins the **Best Buy award** for being one of the cheapest drives while performing quite well. The HE72O's design complements ultrabooks with its sleekness and would be ideal for anyone who needs a 500GB drive.

1TB OR MORE

This category is for users who have a knack for archiving every content they lay their hands on and specially for those people who carry a lot of data with them. You might notice that the price difference between a 500GB and 1TB drive isn 't much. And people who are unsure about their storage requirements usually take into account this price difference and go with the 1TB drives. It's not rocket science that this it is economical since you get almost double the amount of space for a few hundred bucks. We ended up with nine 1TB drives and a 2TB drive for this test. Some of the drives had a sturdy build which is something we wish to see more of. These rugged drives use two or more types of padding around the drive in order to protect the drive and increase its durability.

The ADATA HD710 was one such rugged drive. Some people may remember its older version the ADATA Superior SH93 which was an ultra-durable, water and shock resistant drive. The HD710 turned out to be a worthy successor and this one also has an IEC 529 IPX7 waterproof rating. The design of the ADATA HD710 is quite similar to the older version but with a few changes. The old one was covered with rubber all-around but the HD710 is only lavered from the sides. A small portion of the drive's plastic area is exposed from the centre. It's designed to keep up with the

same two colour ideology as the older drive. There is a slit around the sides to accomodate the cable snugly.

The next 1TB drive was the ADATA DashDrive HV620. The HV620 is a simple looking drive with a glossy plastic casing. Though it looks good, it is prone to fingerprints and scratches. The HV620 like all the other ADATA drives can make use of the HDD-to-Go utility to in order to install portable software on it. This drive lost a few points for being one of the flimsiest drives in terms of build quality but its performance was slightly better than the ADATA HD710.

The HP P2100R looks exactly like the HP P2O5OB except the fact that the drive comes in red colour. The P2100R performs better than the Transcend StoreJet 25M3 but loses points when you bring the features and build quality aspect of the drive in focus. We only received a single drive from Silicon Power for the test which was the Silicon Power Armor A15. The Armor A15 is another one of the rugged drives in the comparison. Silicon Power seems to have meticulously designed this drive keeping protection and durability in mind because the Armor A15 meets the U.S. military drop test standards. With a full body rubber jacket around it, the A15 is well protected and has a one-touch backup button at the top to aid users while performing backups. The Armor A15 uses the Toshiba MQ01ABD100 internally but it seems that Silicon Power has tweaked it a bit because the performance of the A15 in both the synthetic bechmarks and real world tests was exceptional.

Seagate's Backup Plus SRDOSPO 1TB has exactly the same features as the 500GB Seagate Slim but the major differences are the storage size and the drive thickness. Seagate SRDOSPO also supports Seagate Dashboard software. You also have the removable SATA to USB 3.0 adapter attached to the SRDOSPO.

The next drive on the table is the Transcend StoreJet 25M3 which is a rugged portable drive competitor from Transcend. The 25M3 has a pocket like design with curved edges and a rubber coating on it. The drive also supports one-touch backup functionality by making use of the included "Transcend Elite" data management software. The drive supports recovery functions as well by making use of RecoverRx software.

Starring next in our portable hard drive comparison test feature film are a few drives from Toshiba. The Toshiba Canvio Simple DTP110 is a drive which has looks similar to the 500GB Toshiba Canvio DTP105 drive that we saw peviously. It has a plastic casing and a brushed finishing on the top. The sad part about the DTP110 is that there wasn't any information about backup software for this drive listed anywhere. Obviously, you can use Toshiba's NTI backup made EZ utility but it wasn't featured anywhere on the product packing. Thus, we haven't given the drive



Silicon Power Armor A15



Space exploration = WASTE An article arguing how manned space exploration is

such a total waste, and calls for more researching on robots and AI http://dgit.in/1b0qY2G

Draw on your iPhone cover

The Erase Case comes bundled with a special black marker that you can use to draw on the cover http://theerasecase.com/

Portable HDDs Test

any points for this aspect. Nevertheless, the drive's performance was at par with most other drives. Similar to other Toshiba drives. the DTP11O also has an internal shock sensor built inside the drive for protection which is a welcome added feature. Next up, we have the Toshiba Canvio Connect v73600-C. This was one of the more trendy drives in the test with the user having the option of purchasing the drive in different colours. The one we received was coloured blue and had a glossy finish. We can't stress on this much but here again we would like to mention that drives with plastic covering and glossy finishing have a tendency to get easily scratched and so you must be cautious while using them. The v73600-C has cloud storage support as well with the user getting a storage space of 10GB. Performance wise, the v73600-C was strictly average and you shouldn't expect much from it in that department.

Moving forward, we have the Toshiba Canvio Basics V63700-H portable drive which was the

only 2TB drive in the test. The V63700-H has a thicker profile than most other drives but that is because the drive has double the storage space. The V63700-H has a simplistic design element to it and there isn't anything fancy about the looks of this drive. Then again most people wouldn't care too much about it. This drive also has Toshiba's internal shock sensor, seems like Toshiba has made it a standard element of the product design. At a street price of ₹10,500 its price is twice that of most 1TB drives in the comparison test but if you really need so much space in a portable drive, you can consider the V63700-H.

The last 1TB portable drive in the test was the Western Digital My Passport Ultra. This drive from is a lot similar to the older portable drives from WD and its design could've been better. This was the only portable drive that came with a pouch which is a nice touch. The WD My Passport Ultra supports cloud storage by





making use of a standard dropbox account. The performance of the WD My Passport Ultra was very good and it ranked among the fastest drives in our test but it wasn't the fastest one. At a price of ₹5,675 this drive is a bit on the costlier side compared to the other 1TB drives.

Verdict(1TB Drives)

We award **Transcend StoreJet 25M3** the **Best Buy Award** for being a great value for money and feature rich drive with some decent performance figures. But you may also like Seagate Backup Plus ITB which was the cheapest ITB portable drive in the test.

| Contact Det | ails | | | |
|--------------------|--|---------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Brand | Company | Phone | EMAIL | Web site |
| ADATA | ADATA Technology (India) Pvt Ltd | 022-67587046 | sales_in@adata-group.com | www.adata.co.in |
| Buffalo | Buffalo Inc, India | 011-40590685 | NA | www.buffalo-asia.com |
| HP | Fortune Marketing Pvt. Ltd. | 011-30890000 | sales@fortune-it.com | http://fortune-it.com/ |
| Seagate | Fortune Marketing Pvt. Ltd. | 011-2641 4468 | sales@fortune-it.com | www.seagate.com |
| Silicon Power | Silicon Power Computer & Communications Inc. | NA | annie_tsao@silicon-power.com | http://www.silicon-power. com/ |
| Toshiba | Toshiba India | 022-61771771 | polad.garda@toshiba-india.com | www.toshiba-india.com |
| Transcend | Rahul Industrial Enterprises Pvt Ltd. | 9830-06-4573 | riepl@ca12.vsnl.net.in | http://www.riepl.co.in/ |
| WD | Western Digital India | 011-65151104 | NA | www.wd.com |

OVERALL VERDICT

When you speak of sheer performance, the portable drive that stood out was the Silicon Power Armor A15 and it wins the Best Performer award for having the most consistent performance in all facets of the test. Not only does the Armor A15 perform well, but it also has a great build quality with a military standard shock proof rating. We actually drop tested the Armor A15 to verify the company's claim and we must say that the Armor A15 lives up to its expectations. And you really can't go wrong with this drive especially since you can buy it for a street price of ₹5,400. The Toshiba Canvio S3600-A on the other hand wins the Editor's Pick award for being one of the next best performing, feature-rich and well built drive with a great value for money. The slim design of the S3600-A is nice and will be liked by many prospective portable hard

So we hope you can find the right portable drive for your use from this comparison test. But before buying any of these drives make sure you check out our cover story this month to get an idea about the mistakes to avoid while shopping this festive season and also to get to know about great deals or coupons if any from online retailers.

drive buyers.



Dark Souls II Namco Bandai confirmed the launch of Dark Souls II in NA, Europe and Japan http://dgit.in/15MjDQl

EA appoints new CEO

Andrew Wilson was appointed as the new CEO replacing John Riccitiello http://dgit.in/18jfCBd

IVE GOT THE POШЕR

Not everyone needs these nifty little devices but for those folks who simply can't part with their portable devices, they sure are handy.

Mithun Mohandas readersletters@thinkdigit.com

Battery longevity has been on a pretty wild rollercoaster ride through the past few decades. The earlier Motorola DynaTAC series weighed roughly one kilogram and provided an hour's worth of battery life, not talk time. Batteries then started growing smaller and smaller and we had the Nokia S40 phones which boasted more battery life, so much that memes were made about them. Then started the era of smartphones where battery life went for a toss and charging twice a day become the norm. Though the scenario hasn't changed much for power users the average user could eventually eke out a whole day out of one cycle. Power banks are lifesavers for folks who simply can't go a moment without their electronic devices and for those who are going on long trips with no access to a wall socket for upto a week.

What one expects from a power bank

At the heart of it a power bank is simply a battery clubbed with a charger and we don't expect much else from it. But of course you'll find a broad array of features for some as you read on

Capacity

The primary factor for most people is how long they can use their devices on the go before having to finally undertake a pilgrimage to a wall socket. On an average, light users can get an entire day out of a smartphone while for heavy users it might barely last 10 hours. This is fine if you're going to be back home before you run out, but if you prefer not to conserve or simply cannot be frugal with your usage then getting one or two extra charge cycles on the go is preferred.

Weight

No one is interested in carrying around a brick all day just

Free education

DataWind has teamed up with TES India, to provide a library of ready-to-use teaching material http://dgit.in/1e08Uul

Google Maps 6.0 now indoors

Google Maps now includes indoor mapping and positioning inside select malls, airports etc. http://dgit.in/18jhiuy

Power Banks Feature

because once in a blue moon you might need a power fix. So for an everyday carry device, it has to be as light as possible. Given that weight is directly proportional to the capacity of a power bank you might have to compromise on capacity.

Volume and form factor

Though volume isn't a factor which you'd give a lot of emphasis to, it's something you can't ignore completely. Compact form factors are preferred because they don't cause any hindrance when you want to use your device while it's being charged.

One for all

A powerbank that has the ability to charge every device that you own is one of the most important factors. Having to carry one power bank for your phone and another for your tablet is too much of a fuss. Then there is the issue of having many interfaces to comply with, though chargers these days don't have the cable affixed to it which means that you can make do with just a USB port on your power bank but for older generation devices it makes sense to have adaptors. Hence, a power bank that can not only charge all your devices but also do it simultaneously would be the perfect choice.

Where are the scores?

Once you are through with the entire article you're likely going to figure out that this isn't a proper test that we at Digit do. Well there are quite a few reasons as to why it turned out so and we've elaborated upon them below.

Since we're basically testing batteries the aspects we wanted to focus on included the rate of charge and rate of discharge. The battery indicators provide a rough approximation and there was no way approximate figures could be used to compare the performance between two products, that's something we don't like to compromise on. So in order to combat this we needed a accurate battery tester. Ripples in the voltage is also a factor we had to find a way to deal with, at the interface between the actual device and its battery there can only be about 1% variance around 4.2volts, however, this is handled by the device hardware. What we wanted to check is if the voltage to the device was within acceptable limits. A multimeter does give a good read but ripples will only be evident with an oscilloscope sporting a decent sampling rate. We didn't have either equipment but managed to find some for rent.

Then we wanted to find out which brand of batteries the manufacturers were using. They could have been cheap rip-off batteries. OEM batteries or some of the best that the market has to offer. Alas, this meant that we needed to break the case open to check out the insides. What went wrong is that not all manufacturers were fine with their products being torn apart so in order to maintain a standard treatment to each brand we had to chuck the entire testing process altogether.



CyberPower CPBS10400 - can charge an iPad completely



Cooler Master PowerFort 6600 good build quality

Now comes the time part. Manufacturers use ideal situations and end up with specifications a bit further than the truth. This is why a standardised discharge and charge test was needed. Also we needed to test the same battery at different loads which meant that we'd have to charge and discharge each power bank twice or thrice for each test. Each powerbank would take anywhere from 4-12 hours to charge and the high capacity ones needed an entire day. So effectively we required 2 days on an average per power bank. With 28 power banks this meant that we needed to work round the clock for 56 days which was far from possible given the time frame that we had to work with. However, since there were a lot of our readers asking for this comparison we though this was an apt way to get the information across to you without going into all the technical mimbo jumbo.

Some might wonder, why not just charge and discharge using a standard device like an iPad with its massive battery? It's not that simple, modern smartphones and tablets don't have a linear charge indicator, i.e., if the battery is at ten percent capacity then the device might read four percent. Likewise, when a device ranges between 70-90 percent it might only indicate 60-70 percent charge. Which is why your battery seems to lose the initial charge rather quickly and lasts ages on the final 10% charge. To top it off some devices show that they have 100% charge prematurely and continue charging in the background. This nonlinearity means that we would never be able to accurately measure across more than one charge cycle.

Features Indicator lights

All power banks that we looked at had charge level indicators in some form or the other. Some would have just the one LED which would change colours if they were low on charge. The most common arrangement was to have 4-5 LEDs which would all light up when the power bank was at full charge and then one by one the LEDs would either turn off or change colours to indicate a drop in charge level. Thus, each LED stands for O to 20-25% charge. While this may be more than enough for the average consumer, power users and "geeks" prefer a much accurate scale which only one power bank could provide for - the AsiaPower AP-5200A. This unit has a two-digit LED counter which is placed beneath the dark tinted plastic body. Being the only one with the particular feature coupled with a minimalist design, it did look clean and polished.

Amperage range

Having more than one output is definitely a huge plus, but the important part is that each output must be able to supply the full amperage that it is rated for, i.e., the current should not be divided across the two

Power Banks Feature

FB Ads target Apple IDs Now Facebook advertisers can reach custom audiences using iOS identifier app http://dgit.in/18kK0gx

Sony LIV now on WP 8 and Windows 8 Users can use the Mood Wheel on Sony LIV to watch their favourite video as per their mood-genre http://dgit.in/19w0k9x

| Brand | | Artis | s Asia Power Aviiq Cooler Maste | | | | Master | Croma | a CyberPower | | | | | |
|--|------------|------------|---------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-----------------|-------------|---------------|---------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|----------|----------|--|
| Model | PB 2800 | PB 2200 | PB 5600 | AP 2200B | AP 2200A | AP 4000A | AP 2600A | AP 5200A | AV-PB- PI-46RD | Power Fort 5600 | Power Fort 6600 | CRCA0039 | CPBC2200 | |
| Price (MRP) ₹ | 2,250 | 1,499 | 2,999 | 999 | 999 | 1,799 | 1,499 | 2,299 | 2,799 | 3,700 | 4,200 | 1,800 | 1,500 | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | |
| Features and Specs | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Battery capacity (mAh) | 2800 | 2200 | 5600 | 2200 | 2200 | 4000 | 2600 | 5200 | 4600 | 5600 | 6600 | 2200 | 2200 | |
| Battery Type (Li-ion, Li- polymer) | Li-ion | Li-ion | Li-ion | Li-ion | Li-ion | Li-Pol- ymer | Li-ion | Li-ion | Li-Poly- mer | Li-ion | Li-Polymer | Li-ion | Li-ion | |
| Rated DC Input (volts) | 5V | 5V | 5V | 5V | 5V | 5V | 5V | 5V | 5V | 5V | 5V | 5V | 5V | |
| Input current (mA) | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 500 | 600 | |
| Rated DC Output (volts) | 5V | 5V | 5V | 5V | 5V | 5V | 5V | 5V | 5V | 5V | 5V | 5V | 5V | |
| Output current (mA) | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 | 500 / 2100 | 1000 /2000 | 2100 | 1000 / 2100 | 800 | 1000 | |
| Company rated recharge Time (in hours) | NA | NA | NA | 4 | 4 | 4 | 3 | 4 | NA | 8 | 9 | NA | 4 | |
| LED charge indicator (Y/N) | Y | Y | Y | N | N | Y | Y | N | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | |
| Battery percentage indicator (Y/N) | N | Ν | N | Ν | Ν | Ν | Ν | Y | Ν | Ν | Ν | Ν | Ν | |
| Wall socket charging | Y | N | Y | N | N | N | N | N | N | N | N | N | N | |
| No of charging adapters bundled | 6 | 1 | 6 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 6 | 0 | |
| - USB Mini | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | |
| - USB Micro | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | | |
| - Apple old | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | |
| - Apple new | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| - Samsung | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 0 | |
| - Nokia | 2 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | |
| Charges iPad3 | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | N | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | |
| Weight (grams) | 98 | 96 | 170 | 100 | 100 | 132 | 98 | 184 | 152 | 184 | 250 | 60.3 | 100 | |
| Dimensions (mm) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| - Length | 79.00 | 79.00 | 96.80 | 75.00 | 90.00 | 116.00 | 75.00 | 75.00 | 113.00 | 75.80 | 115.00 | 82.40 | 86.40 | |
| - Width | 32.00 | 32.00 | 43.90 | 23.00 | 25.00 | 60.00 | 33.00 | 75.00 | 58.00 | 62.00 | 91.00 | 22.00 | 43.20 | |
| - Depth | 25.00 | 25.00 | 21.80 | 23.00 | 25.00 | 10.00 | 24.00 | 22.00 | 17.00 | 23.50 | 17.00 | 22.00 | 22.90 | |
| Volume (cm ³) | 63.20 | 63.20 | 92.64 | 39.68 | 56.25 | 69.60 | 59.40 | 123.75 | 111.42 | 110.44 | 177.91 | 39.88 | 85.47 | |
| | | | | | | | | 10.00 | 11.00 | | | | | |
| mAh - volume ratio(mAh/cm ³) | 44.30 | 34.81 | 60.45 | 55.45 | 39.11 | 57.47 | 43.77 | 42.02 | 41.29 | 50.71 | 37.10 | 55.16 | 25.74 | |
| Power - price ratio(mAh/₹) | 1.24 | 1.47 | 1.87 | 2.20 | 2.20 | 2.22 | 1.73 | 2.26 | 1.64 | 1.51 | 1.57 | 1.22 | 1.47 | |
| mAh - weight ratio(mAh/gram) | 28.57 | 22.92 | 32.94 | 22.00 | 22.00 | 30.30 | 26.53 | 28.26 | 30.26 | 30.43 | 26.40 | 36.48 | 22.00 | |
| Cell Brand | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | |
| No of recharge cycles (company rated) | NA | NA | NA | 500 | 500 | 500 | 500 | 500 | 500 | NA | NA | NA | 500 | |
| Rated standby time | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | 6 months | 3 months | 3 months | NA | 2 weeks | |
| Other features (if any) | NA | NA | LED Torch | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | Stylus | NA | NA | NA | |
| Warranty (in years) | 1 year | 1 year | 1 year | 1 year | 1 year | 1 year | 1 year | 1 year | 1 year | 2(hardware) / 1(battery) | 2(hardware) / 1(battery) | 1 year | 1 year | |
| Over charge protection / Over discharge protection | Y | Y | Y | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | Y | Y | Y | NA | |
| Over current protection/ Short circuit protection | Y | Y | Y | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | Y | Y | Y | NA | |
| Body material | Plastic | Plastic | Plas- tic | Metal | Plastic | Plastic | Plastic | Plas- tic | Plastic + Rubber | Plastic + Rubber | Plastic + Rubber | Plastic | Plastic | |
| Calculated discharge time (Th | eoretica | l) in hour | s. Real v | world va | lues will | be lesse | er. | | | | | | | |
| at 500mA load | 5.6 | 4.4 | 11.2 | 4.4 | 4.4 | 8 | 5.2 | 10.4 | 9.2 | 11.2 | 13.2 | 4.4 | 4.4 | |
| at 1000mA load | 2.8 | 2.2 | 5.6 | 2.2 | 2.2 | 4 | 2.6 | 5.2 | 4.6 | 5.6 | 6.6 | 2.2 | 2.2 | |
| | 1.33 | 1.05 | 2.67 | 1.05 | 1.05 | 1.90 | 1.24 | 2.48 | 2.19 | 2.67 | 3.14 | 1.05 | 1.05 | |

No more Skype updates for WP 7 Microsoft has announced that no more Skype updates will be available for Windows Phone 7 http://dgit.in/19wfMEt

German group hacks TouchID Most touted feature of the new iPhone 5S , TouchID hacked by German group http://dgit.in/16l2obj

Power Banks Feature

| CyberPower | | Eveready | | Luxa2 | MAXX | Nokia | PNY | | Port | tronics | | | Zebronics | 5 |
|----------------|---------|----------------|----------------|----------|---------|------------|-----------------|------------|---------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| CPBC10400 | UM22 | UM52 | UM08 | P3 2500 | PBS 26 | DC-16 | Power- 80A | | Pico Emer- gency Power | Mojo Charger LED | Charge X MPS5600 | ZEB- PG4800 | ZEB- PG7200 | ZEB- PG2400 |
| 4,500 | 1,600 | 3,200 | 1,200 | 3,500 | 1,499 | 1,499 | 3,500 | 899 | 1,299 | 1,299 | 2,999 | 1,990 | 2,490 | 1,450 |
| | | | | | | | · | | | | | · | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 10400 | 2200 | 5200 | 800 | 2500 | 2600 | 2200 | 8000 | 2200 | 900 | 2200 | 5600 | 4800 | 7200 | 2400 |
| Li-ion | Li-ion | Li-ion | Li-Poly- | Li-Poly- | Li-ion | Li-ion | NA | Li-ion | Li-polymer | Li-ion | Li-poly- | Li-ion | Li-ion | Li-ion |
| | | | mer | mer | | | | | | | mer | | | |
| 5V | 5V | 5V | 5V | 5V | 5V | 5V | 5V | 5V | 5V | 5V | 5V | 5V | 5V | 5V |
| 2000 | 800 | 900 | 500 | 500 | 1000 | 500 | 500 / | 1000 | NA | 500 | 1000 | 500 | 500 | 500 |
| | | | | | | | 1000 | | | | | | | |
| 5V | 5V | 5V | 5V | 5V | 5V | 5V | 5V | 5V | 5V | 5V | 5V | 5V | 5V | 5V |
| 2000 / 2100 | 1000 | 1000 / 2100 | 500 | 1000 | 1000 | 500 | 2100 | 1000 | 1000 | 650-750 | 1000- | 1000- | 1000- | 1000 |
| | | | | | | | | | | | 2000 | 2100 | 2100 | |
| 7 | 6 | 12 | NA | 3 | 3-4 | NA | 11 | NA | NA | 4 to 5 | 11 | 6 | 6 | 6 |
| N(| N/ | N/ | N/ | X | N/ | N/ | X | M | N/ | X | N | N/ | N/ | X |
| Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| Ν | Ν | Ν | Ν | Ν | N | Ν | Ν | N | NA | Ν | N | Ν | N | NA |
| Ν | N | Ν | N | N | N | N | N | N | Ν | N | N | Y | N | Y |
| 0 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 6 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| 0 | 0 | Ū | 0 | - | - | - | - | - | - | C C | - | - | - | - |
| 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | | | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Y | Y | Y | Ν | Υ | Y | Y | Υ | Ν | Ν | Ν | Υ | Ν | Y | Υ |
| 352 | 106 | 228 | 54 | 106 | 94 | 102 | 256 | 76 | 44 | 118 | 166 | 198 | 222 | 108 |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 112.20 | 75.70 | 73.90 | 65.20 | 125.10 | 80.00 | 121.00 | 110.00 | 70.50 | 64.20 | 129.00 | 118.00 | 89.80 | 73.40 | 90.80 |
| 77.70 | 33.10 | 61.90 | 45.00 | 60.30 | 32.00 | 23.40 | 52.00 | 32.00 | 49.00 | 23.00 | 63.00 | 49.30 | 74.10 | 27.30 |
| 26.60 | 24.00 | 28.10 | 15.50 | 8.90 | 25.00 | 23.40 | 24.00 | 21.00 | 14.00 | 23.00 | 11.60 | 26.80 | 26.70 | 27.30 |
| 231.90 | 60.14 | 128.54 | 45.48 | 67.14 | 64.00 | 66.25 | 137.28 | 47.38 | 44.04 | 68.24 | 86.23 | 118.65 | 145.22 | 67.67 |
| 44.05 | 00.50 | 10.15 | 17.50 | 07.04 | (0.00 | 00.01 | 50.00 | 10.11 | 20.44 | 22.24 | 0101 | (0.(0 | (0.50 | 05 (7 |
| 44.85 | 36.58 | 40.45 | 17.59 | 37.24 | 40.63 | 33.21 | 58.28 | 46.44 | 20.44 | 32.24 | 64.94 | 40.46 | 49.58 | 35.47 |
| 2.31 | 1.38 | 1.63 | 0.67 | 0.71 | 1.73 | 1.47 | 2.29 | 2.45 | 0.69 | 1.69 18.64 | 1.87 33.73 | 2.41 24.24 | 2.89 | 1.66 |
| 29.55 | 20.75 | 22.81 | 14.81 | 23.58 | 27.66 | 21.57 | 31.25 | 28.95 | 20.45 | 18.04 | 33.73 | 24.24 | 32.43 | 22.22 |
| NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | Sam- | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA |
| | | | | | sung | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | SDI | | | | | | | | | |
| 500 | NA | NA | NA | 500 | 500 | NA | 500 | NA | NA | 1000 | 510 | 500 | 500 | 500 |
| 1 E an an that | 1 | 2 | 10 days | NIA | NIA | NIA | NLA | NIA | NIA | | NIA | NIA | NIA | NIA |
| 1.5 months | 1 month | 3 months | 10 days | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA |
| LED torch | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | LED Torch | LED | NA | NA | NA |
| | | | | | | | | | | | Torch | | | |
| 1 year | 6 | 6 | 6 | 1 year | 1 year | 6 | 1 year | 1 year | 1 year | 1 year | 1 year | 1 year | 1 year | 1 year |
| | months | months | months | | | months | | | | | | | | |
| NA | NA | NA | Υ | NA | NA | NA | Y | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA |
| | | | X | | | | N/ | | | | | | | |
| | NA | NA | Y | NA | NA | NA | Y | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA |
| NA | | | | Disstis | Plastic | Plastic | Plastic | Plastic | Plastic | Plastic | Plastic | Plastic | Plastic | Plastic |
| | Plastic | Plastic | Plastic | | | 1 103110 | rastic | i tastic | 1 103110 | 1 103110 | i lastic | i tastit | i tastic | i tastiC |
| NA Plastic | Plastic | Plastic | Plastic | Plastic | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Plastic | Plastic | Plastic | Plastic | | | | | | | | | | |
| | 4.4 | 10.4 | Plastic 1.6 | 5 | 5.2 | 4.4 | 16 | 4.4 | 1.8 | 4.4 | 11.2 | 9.6 | 14.4 | 4.8 |
| Plastic | | | | | | 4.4 2.2 | 16 8 3.81 | 4.4 2.2 | 1.8 0.9 0.43 | 4.4 2.2 | 11.2 5.6 | 9.6 4.8 | 14.4 7.2 | 4.8 2.4 |

Lone Survivor on PS3 / PS Vita

The indie horror game now on PS3 and PS Vita. Console to get a Director's Cut http://dgit.in/18jhjvs

PES 2014 demo rolls out Immediately after FIFA 14 demo appeared,

Konami released a free demo of PES 2014 for all platforms http://dgit.in/lezuUrT

output as is done with normal USB headers. Only then can you truly call it capable of charging two devices simultaneously. Most power banks have more than one output but they have a single supply that is shared between the two outputs.

Power Banks Feature

The USB standard specifies 500mA per port for USB 2.0 and 900mA per port for USB 3.0. However, manufacturers understand that charging a simple smartphone with a 2000mAh battery would take upwards of 4 hours, so in order to reduce that time these standards went for a toss. Smartphone chargers supply somewhere between 500mA to 1.5A which also causes the device and the charger to heat up considerably. Then there are certain devices like the iPad which requires 2.1A and not all chargers support this.

While this might seem a bit absurd the reasoning is that the iPad specific chargers have a few resistors hooked up on the data lines (Pins 2 and 3 of USB 2.0) which helps the device identify if the charger is certified by Apple. This is why even



Zebronics ZEB-PG7200 - value for money

if you do end up with a charger/ power bank which can provide 2A or more it might not charge an iDevice.

Overcurrent Protection

Basically in electric circuits, if there is a short circuit or a ground fault then the current flow increases to the point that the components start overheating and then they burnout. An overcurrent protection circuit simply shuts down the circuit whenever it detects excess current flow. Over current protection is needed at both the output and the input ports of the power bank. Without this protection the risk lies not only in the power bank getting damaged but even the device being charged. It is also often advertised as short-circuit protection.

Overtemperature protection

Most ICs which are at the core of the charging circuit feature an overtemperature protection mechanism with some having an extra sensor around the battery compartment. The moment the temperature inside the battery compartment crosses a threshold the cut-off mechanism is triggered.

Overcharge Protection

When a battery has reached it's maximum capacity, charging it further leads to bloating and subsequently causes it to blow up. If you don't believe us the then there are plenty of videos online(http://dgit.in/19nK11B).

Now you don't need to worry about overcharging your device because most modern smartphones and tablets have built in overcharge protection. Here it's important because you need to be assured that the power bank won't suffer the same fate as the video linked above. This



Portronics Charge X - packing more charge per cm3

way you can leave your powerbank to charge unsupervised without having to come back to charcoal.

Similar to overcharge protection is over discharge protection which stops the power bank from continuing to charge the device when the power bank nears the end of its capacity. Completely discharging and charging is somewhat bad for batteries and they may lose capacity over a long period as a result. Recovering from such a state usually involves charging at a really low current till full and that cannot be done without removing the battery from the power bank.

Build quality

Almost every powerbank we came across turned out to have a plastic body conforming to pretty much four standard styles - the squarishcuboid, elongated-cuboid, flat-bar and cylindrical. The body being made primarily of plastic raises some concern as these are pretty heavy objects. These days even the ultra light phones don't always survive a standard drop test so heavier objects are at an obvious disadvantage. What would have been better is if they had some sort of rubber padding to absorb part of the impact shock. The Cooler Master Power Fort series and the AviiQ AV-PBPI-46RD came through on this point

READY RECKONER

There are times when you simply couldn't care for all the numbers and graphs. All you want is 3-4 options to choose from, which is why we've put together a ready reckoner featuring products that adhere to one or two factors, read on to figure out which one fits your need.

Highest capacity

All of these units should be able to provide 2-3 charge cycles for your device.

- 1. CyberPower CPBC10400
- 2. PNY Power-80A
- 3. Zebronics ZEB-PG7200
- 4. Cooler Master PowerFort 6600 5. Cooler Master PowerFort 5600
- / Artis PB 5600
- 6. Eveready UM52

Most capacity per rupee

If squeezing out the most capacity per buck is what you are after then the following products should do the trick. 1. Zebronics PG7200 2. Portronics PICO II 2200 3. Zebronics ZEB-PG4800

Most capacity per unit volume

If storage space is a concern then the first three products offer the most capacity per unit volume, however, they are quite bulky so the next three are flat ones that easily fit in your pockets. 1. Portronics Charge X 2. Artis PB 5600 3. PNY Power 80-A

4. AsiaPower AP-4000A 5. Luxa2 P3-2500 6. AviiQ AV-PBPI-46RD

Great build quality

These models feature a more rugged and composite build. 1. Cooler Master PowerFort 6600 & 5600 2. AviiQ AV-PBPI-46RD 3. Asia Power AP2200B

Choice of colour

When you simply don't care whether it is heavy or expensive and the only thing that matters is that you want in red, yellow, green or pink then you can check out the power banks from Artis and Cooler Master.

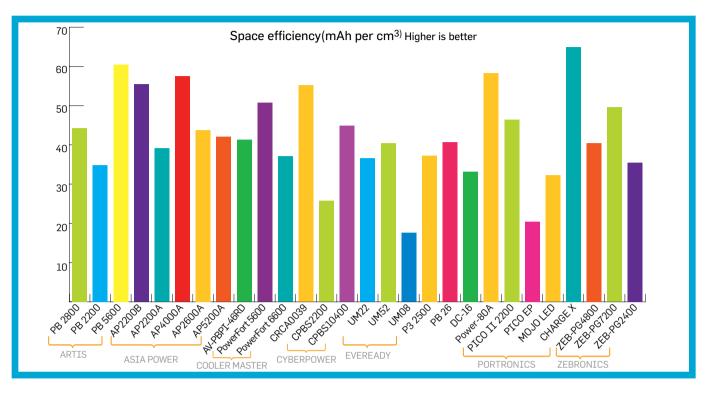
iPad keyboard review

Check out the pros and cons of the Cygnett Lavish Connect bluetooth keyboard for iPad available for ₹8,000 http://dgit.in/19hBb5Y

Tablets to surpass PC

Research firm IDC predicts tablet shipments to surpass PC shipments by Q4 2013 and annually by 2015 **http://dgit.in/17vufCs**

Power Banks Feature



quite well. Half of the body is covered with a rubber hard coat which not only makes it durable but also provides a little traction. This way you can be sure your powerbank won't accidentally go sliding across the table when you give it a tap. This doesn't mean that we loathe the shiny ones, you can have rubber casing with a glossy texture as well. The only exception was the AsiaPower AP-2200B which used brushed aluminium for it's outer casing. A nice design, but, edges chamfered would have made it much better.

One powerbank which was like an attachment for the Iphone 5 was the Luxa 2. Slipping your iPhone 5 in it will effectively double the thickness. Surprisingly, it doesn't come with a lightning cable of it's own. There are two sides to this "feature". One, having a small attachment would mean that you can pop your phone in the powerbank and continue using it without any loss in productivity. Two, a device being charged does heat up a bit which makes it a little less comfortable to use. Don't worry about all those emails



AsiaPower AP2200B - the only one with a metal body

regarding excessive radiation emitted by a phone while it is being charged, there are limits to how much radiation a phone can emit. In order to ensure that a particular model can be sold in most countries around the world manufacturers ensure that each model conforms to the most stringent standards that any country might have.

Another thing we saw was that some in power banks were compact and could be attached directly without any cable. They aren't bulky to the point that normal operation of a device could be hindered and they didn't sit flush to the phone/tablet surface. This was good because in this case it doesn't block the microphone completely. We got two such models and both of them were made by Portronics(PICO II and Emergency Power).

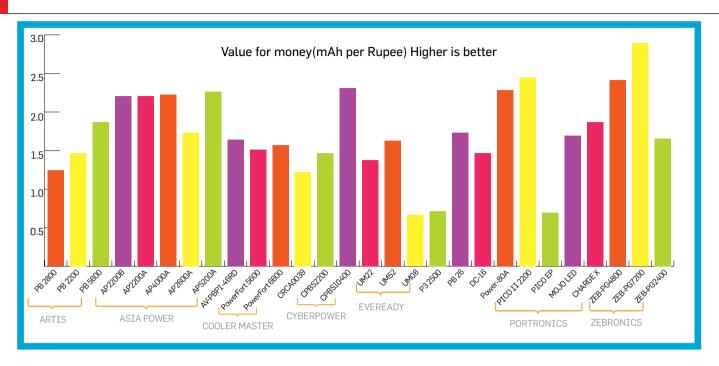


LG's foray into tablets LG unveiled its 8.3-inch Android 4.2 Jellybean tablet, G Pad before IFA 2013

http://dgit.in/18wCnQR

Power Banks Feature

I'm Shakti safety app I'm Shakti' Android app for women and children's safety released http://dgit.in/199FBet



Extra features

Contact Details

Brand

AsiaPower

Artis

Aviig

Croma

Eveready

Luxa2

Maxx

Nokia

PNY

Portronics

Zebronics

Cyber Power

There were a few products that had extra features which we found to be worth mentioning. Four power banks that we tested had an inbuilt torch. While not all of them were bright and focused enough to pass off as proper torches there was one exception - the Portronics Mojo Charger LED. Not only did it have a really bright focused LED and but it also featured 4 modes, which are normal, bright, fast blink and slow blink. The Cooler Master PowerFort 5600 came with a

Company

TAG

Cooler Master Cooler Master Co.

Kunhar Peripherals

AsiaPowercom

Croma Stores

Cyber Power India

Eveready Industries India

Savera Marketing Agency

stylus! This isn't completely out of context but it did surprise us. Other than the torch functionality and the stylus there was no power bank with any special feature worth highlighting. There was the MAXX smart charger which was the only one to mention what brand of battery it had inside but other than that it was just another ordinary power bank. Same goes for the Croma CRCA0039 which was just another average power bank that did what it claimed to without standing out at all. The Eveready UM22

and the Portronics Emergency Power are pretty compact and lightweight which should make them ideal for carrying around in pockets.

The best battery?

Lithium and alkaline are pretty much at the top of the ladder when it comes to battery capacity and longevity. They also offer the most recharge cycles, however, you don't have much choice when power banks are concerned since all of them use either Lithium or Lithium polymer batteries. They have a steady

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| 33-6 | 6331600 | info@balajisolutions.in | mainstrea |
| 011- | 42413131 | sales@portronics.com | Needl |
| 044 | -40000007 | enquiry@zebronics.info | using a r |

rate of charge and none of them posses the ability to turbocharge batteries. There have been a few prototypes designed which are capable of very high current input and output but these have only recently stepped out of the laboratory and are yet to become mainstream.

Needless to say, using a power bank capable of turbo-charge with a device that does not support turbo charge is a futile venture.

Tesla, the electric car company is currently working on batteries which should charge in the same time it takes to fill up a gas/petrol tank(we're talking about car batteries here). So a similar technology when adopted on a smaller scale could change the battery market's dynamic completely. Let's wait and see.

Final words

We saw some great products this year from compact units providing one smart phone charge cycle to mammoth bricks capable of lasting six charge cycles. When we get back to testing this product category next year we should hopefully (with a little extra time and goading) overcome the hurdles we had this time and bring you an actual technical test. Till then the ready reckoner we've given should be more than sufficient at picking out a power bank for your needs. 📶

Zebronics

Infibeam

Nokia India

Balaji Solutions

Portronics Digital

Doing things that matter

f you didn't catch the live Apple iPhone 5S / 5C announcement on September 10, rest assured you didn't miss out on any moment of history. Don't believe me? Check it out on this month's DVD and see for yourself. Apple press conferences have stopped being charismatic and their products are anything but groundbreaking these days. Apart from that one particular moment, and no I'm not referring to the fingerprint sensor (which consumerises biometrics to a whole new level, signalling the beginning of the end of the traditional password). Phil Schiller's ecstatic declaration of the iPhone 5S to be the "first ever" smartphone to feature a 64-bit chip is a much bigger deal than one would imagine, for better or worse.

Yes, the 5S is the first smartphone to showcase a 64-bit chip, and yes Apple's putting a gargantuan marketing spin on the achievement, overselling its benefits in the near term – say, the next 2-3 years. Apple's phone may be the first to support 64-bit processing for now, but expect competing flagships to sport 64-bit chips by this time next year, according to ARM's 64-bit architecture roadmap. Not just Apple, companies like NVIDIA, Qualcomm, Samsung and Intel are all busy working on 64-bit chips. However, there are quite a few challenges to overcome for everyone to enjoy the benefits of 64-bit goodness.

A 64-bit chip is quite frankly wasted on a smartphone released in 2013. There just isn't enough RAM on devices to reap the benefits of 64-bit architecture - the Galaxy NOTE III is the current champion packing in 3GB - and it's safe to assume that with the 5S, Apple doesn't do any better. I'm quite sure Schiller wouldn't have kept it under wraps if the new iPhone 5S packed in a 4GB RAM module. With not enough system memory to enjoy most of the performance benefits, the whole point of a 64-bit chip is kind of wasted to begin with. Another thing to remember is that all the current smartphone OSes and the apps programmed to run on them right now only utilize a 32-bit address bus (because of the underlying hardware it's powered by). Until such time when the entire app development ecosystem shifts to 64-bit apps - and trust me, it's not going to happen in a hurry - you certainly won't be enjoying any

of the software benefits of what 64-bit chips claim to offer. Why do you think Schiller added the bit about 32-bit apps running just as they should on the new 64-bit hardware? So don't get carried away with the whole 64-bit hype; wait and watch.

The point I'm trying to make is that it's inevitable that smartphones and tablets will be packed to the gills with hardware enhancements and even ridiculous features like picturein-picture (watching two videos simultaneously on the same screen, why oh why?!). That's still fine, I guess. But wouldn't it be nice to address some basic problems like the abysmal battery performance on most smartphones these days - wouldn't it be nice to go through one whole day without having to charge your smartphone? Arguments can be made to justify that with every new hardware platform, battery efficiency of devices is improving. However, I think that's still attacking the problem through one perspective. It would be naive to assume bigger and brighter minds haven't thought of this already, but it's high time we were blessed with better performing batteries (may be something beyond Li-ion?) and not hardware components that leverage them better.

Screen sizes and form factors of devices is another aspect where there's a lot of craziness rampant in the industry right now. Phones measuring 6.5-inches long, tablets measuring 18-inches – what next? It's completely bonkers. Everyone's shooting darts at the spinning wheel with tens of hundreds of form factor combinations, leading to a tsunami of devices with little thought behind them. What OEMs term as choice, I like to call plain indecision. In time, this utter madness will abate. But for now, the freakshow continues. And there's no escaping it.

Oh Post-PC era, if I could only fathom what a splendid mess you would be? Alas, I had no such foresight. And, from the looks of it, neither did device manufacturers.

mysh Ohile



Jayesh Shinde Manager - Test Centre jayesh.shinde@thinkdigit.com

"Phil Schiller's ecstatic declaration of the iPhone 5S to be the "first ever" smartphone to feature a 64bit chip is a much bigger deal than one would imagine, for better or worse."

Bazaar THE LATEST PRODUCTS REVIEWED FOR YOU

The Digit Test Centre receives hundreds of products every month. Each of these products is put through a series of tests and is finally given a score. The final score is arrived at after considering a number of factors and evaluating them in terms of features, performance, value for money, build quality, and, in the case of software, even ease of use.

For better understanding of our ratings, here's a quick guide to our overall score

Extremely poor product. Keep away!

Strictly OK. Not recommended

Decent product. Go for it, but there may be better products out there.

Very good product. Highly recommended.

Ground-breaking product. We've never seen anything like it before. A definite must buy!

INSIDE

WANT TO EXPERIENCE AUGMENTED REALITY?

If you have an iOS or Android device, you can make some of the reviews in this Bazaar section come alive.

Step 1: Install "Zoop" (from the Google Play Store or Apple App Store)

Step 2: Look for images that have the **Zoop** tag and scan them using the Zoop app **(example below)**.



Step 3: Enjoy an augmented reality Digit like never before

Remember to send feedback about this initiative to editor@thinkdigit.com

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& M O R E . . .



GTA V sales top \$1 billion In just three days!!! That's right. It's opening day sales was pegged at a mindboggling \$800 mn, a world record. http://dgit.in/19pCGgC



Meet Intel's Minnowboard Challenging the \$35 Raspberry Pi, Intel launched a 4.2-inch x86 integrated PC with extensive IO ports, selling at \$199. http://dgit.in/15cwiNV

Bazaar

HP EliteBook Revolve 810

No functionality was sacrificed in the making of this laptop. Almost.

he Lenovo ThinkPad Twist now has some company, with the HP EliteBook Revolve 810 arriving in the market as an alternative, ultra-flexible laptop for you to buy. We must say, the laptop does look very professional and well-built. For starters, the magnesium alloy body gives it an industrial aura and the choice of colour adds to its business-like personality. The chassis is coated with what HP calls the scratchresistant DuraFinish, and there's a thin laver of rubber on the underside to aid in grip. Happily, this kind of finish is completely matte, which means that you never have to worry about fingerprints and maybe even scratches in the long run. The screen hinge has a stainless steel finish. Because the entire machine is so slim (22.2mm), all ports are placed behind the display. While this is perfectly okay in the tablet mode, as a laptop, this is something that is inconvenient. This is the same design that we saw in the Lenovo ThinkPad Twist as well.

Speaking of the Twist, the 11.6-inch screen on the Revolve 81O also twists one way only, but all the way back to the extent that it can lie on its back over the keyboard in what is sort of a tablet mode. The display isn't removable though, something that we've started to notice on hybrids these days. In the tablet mode, the Revolve 81O feels expectedly heavy and thick, but then again, that is just an additional form-factor at your disposal and we can't blame HP for trying.

The display has its good and bad points – crisp text rendering, excellent brightness levels, adequately rich colour reproduction. On the downside, the screen is highly reflective (probably due to the glossy finish to enable a better touch-screen experience), the whites aren't the best we've seen and the resolution of 1366x768 seems so woeful these days. For machines that cost so much money, it is high time that the displays offered higher resolutions than this.

The keyboard is absolutely brilliant, and is an improvement even over the excellent ones we have seen on the newer HP TouchSmart ultrabooks and the ENVY notebooks. While the palm rest area is just about enough for the small form factors, the key travel and response makes this an excellent keyboard for thrashing out long documents on. Most keyboards on smaller sized machines compromise on the experience with either a cramped layout or not enough key travel, but not this one.



Performance is very much in the same range as the Lenovo Twist, and the flash storage makes a considerable difference in the overall snappiness of the machine. You do need to clean the Windows installation and get rid of all the bloat that comes bundled with it though. A problem that is prevalent among most laptops and an absolute pain in the neck.

The battery life was excellent, but compared to what we're being promised with Haswell these days, it falls a little short. Our battery tests pegged the HP's battery at 19Ominutes, but in real world usage, typing documents, some web-browsing, music playback, all at 50% brightness, the Elitebook revolve offered around 5 hours of backup. Of course, this is nowhere near the 10+ hours that devices like the MacBook Air promise us.

The question about the purpose of such a form factor is something that's still up for debate. Irrespective of how well it's made, there are much better laptops that money can buy. Unless you really want the dual functionality and flexibility, you would be better off with a separate notebook and a tablet, if your budget allows for that. Then there is the question of the screen size - there aren't too many people who would be comfortable with an 11.6-inch display for their office work, particularly when they have to pay ₹90,000 for it! Those who do, will love the nocompromise functionality and the style statement the EliteBook Revolve 810 offers. 75

| Features | 75 |
|-------------|----|
| Performance | 80 |
| Build | 85 |
| Value | 60 |

Specifications

Processor: Intel Core i5-3437U @ 1.9GHz; RAM: 4GB; Graphics: Intel HD4000; Display: 11.6-inch (1366 x 768 pixels) touchscreen; Storage: 128GB SSD; Connectivity: 2 USB ports, HDMI out, Ethernet, dock connector; OS: Windows 8 (64-bit)

Contact HP India

Phone: N.A. Email: http://www8.hp.com/ in/en/contact-hp/contact. html

Vishal Mathur

Social media tip Always wanted to post simultaneously to Google+, Facebook and Twitter? Now you can, by visiting this link: dgit.in/15cDhXg

Arise, haptic interfaces! Imagine the ability to touch the fabric of a gadget to control it. The future's arriving faster than you

imagined. http://dgit.in/16fyjd6

Sony Xperia Z Ultra Lemon A4 Full HD

The largest, most powerful phone out there?

Bazaar

he Xperia Z Ultra borrows many design elements from the Xperia Price Z - the metallic frame and tempered glass, the aluminium power key on the right side spine. It's also just 6.5mm thick and weighs in at a measly 212g. If that wasn't enough, the phone is waterproof. The massive 6.4-inch display is something to behold. At "just" 344ppi, the resolution seems inferior to that on the Xperia Z (441ppi) and the HTC One (469 ppi), but this shouldn't matter in the real world. In the real world, the display on this phone is fabulous. It's exceptionally bright and easily legible in sunlight. Text scaling is very disappointing though. Such a large screen requires a larger font



| Features | JO |
|-------------|-----------|
| Performance | 90 |
| Build | 30 |
| Value | 30 |

Specifications

Processor: Qualcomm Snapdragon 800 @ 2.2GHz; RAM: 2GB; Display: 6.4-inch Triluminos (1920 x 1080); Graphics: Adreno 330: Storage: 16GB + microSD: OS: Android 4.2.2: Dimensions: 179.4 x 92.2 x 6.5mm; Weight: 212 grams

Contact

Sony Mobile Phone: 1800-3000-2800 Email: http://bit.ly/o7xidE



and having to constantly squint at the screen is not fun.

Another interesting feature of the phone is that you can use even a pencil or pen as a stylus. We've tested it and can assure vou that it works.

The Xperia Z Ultra is easily the largest smartphone we've ever tested, and also the most powerful. Synthetic benchmarks put it ahead of the Snapdragon 600 and the octa-core Exynos from the Galaxy S4. The performance is staggering, but the average user won't notice any difference in day-to-day use.

As a primary phone, the phone lasted well over 24hours with an average work-load - some browsing, YouTube and plenty of IM, not to mention two hours of phone calls - with the screen brightness set to auto. An impressive result for such a large and powerful phone.

Such a large and powerful phone does have a niche audience though, but for that audience, it's an excellent choice. Vishal Mathur

A smartphone with a gorgeous display



espite a plastic back, this is one of the better-built devices we've seen in this price range. The display is vibrant and is easily the best feature on this phone. The wideviewing angles and the crisp text and images contribute to this, more so because videos look great on the device. The phone does lag a bit under heavy loads and the camera is noisy in low-light. The phone is a dual-SIM one and supports a regular SIM alongside a micro-SIM. It's an average phone and average performer with a great display.



| Features | 60 |
|-------------|----|
| Performance | 60 |
| Value | 60 |
| Design | 90 |

Specifications

Display: 5-inch IPS LCD display with 19200x1080 pixel resolution; CPU: quad-core 1.2GHz MediaTek MT6589 processor; RAM: 1GB RAM; Storage: 16GB: Camera: 13.1MP rear camera & 5MP front; OS: Android 4.2; Battery: 1850mAh battery.

Contact

Lemon Mobiles Email: info@lemonmobiles.com Phone: 18002660280

WickedLeak Wammy Passion Z Plus A budget quad-core 1080p



his plastic-backed smartphone looks attractive. The rear panel is removable and gives easy access to the two SIM slots and the microSD card slot. The OGS display looks nice and helps maintain that slim form factor. It's vibrant and great for reading and consuming content. The UI is stock Android. The hardware isn't very great and lag is very apparent when gaming or under heavy loads. The camera is also just average and, as expected, only performs decently in low-light.



| Features | 70 |
|-------------|----|
| Performance | 70 |
| Value | 80 |
| Design | 80 |
| - | |

Specifications

Display: 5-inch IPS LCD @ 1080p; CPU: guad-core 1.5GHz MediaTek MT6589T processor; RAM: 1GB RAM; Storage: 4GB storage expandable up to 64GB via a microSD card: Camera: 13MP rear camera & 2MP front camera; OS: Android 4.2; Battery: 2500mAh battery.

Contact

WickedLeak E-mail: http://dgit.in/1b3Mnlj Phone: 9324311617



Find your first tweet Follow these simple seven steps mentioned in the

article to track down your very first Twitter post. Feeling nostalgic, eh? **http://dgit.in/1dx25sX**

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Bazaar

Nokia Lumia 925 The 920 goes on a Diet



| Features | . 80 |
|-------------|------|
| Performance | . 80 |
| Value | .70 |
| Design | .90 |

Specifications

Display: 4.5-inch AMOLED @ 720p; CPU: 1.5GHz Krait (dual-core); RAM: 1GB RAM; Storage: 16/32GB storage; Camera: 8MP rear camera with OIS, 1.3MP front camera; OS: WP8; Battery: 2000mAh battery.

Contact

Nokia India Phone: +91-124-4833000 he Nokia Lumia 925 is, for all intents and purposes, a slimmed down version of the Nokia Lumia 920. Since the latter phone was thick and heavy, Nokia released the Lumia 925, a phone that's just 8.5mm thick and comes in an incredibly light aluminium body. It now incorporates a 4.5" AMOLED screen as well.

The 925 sports the PureView camera from its predecessor and adds on an extra lens element and optical image stabilization. This ensures better photos in daylight thanks to better control of flare and ghosting.

As with most Windows

Phones, the standardised hardware ensures that the phone functions smoothly. The UI is fluid



and the apps run well (the few that exist) and we noticed no lag in heavy games. The battery life was also pretty impressive; the phone lasted from 8a.m. to 1a.m. the next day with an average day's use.

All in all, the Lumia 925 is the same as the Lumia 920 in terms of performance, with slightly better OIS and better battery life. The most

notable feature of the phone continues to be its incredibly slim form-factor, which hasn't just shed serious millimetres, but also a lot of weight. This smartphone is for anyone who has always wanted the Lumia 920, but was turned off by

its size and weight.

rice

Swapnil Mathur

Sony DSC RX100 II

The camera that it should have been in the first place

he Sony RX100 was a game changer in many respects. While it was a large sensor camera, what it did was bring a large sensor into a compact camera. When we reviewed the RX100, we fell in love with it almost immediately, although we did feel it

lacked a few essential features. Now with the RX100 II, we're seeing a more sensible camera system, something the RX100 should have been in the first place. We were sceptical at first – the specs on the camera are identical to its predecessor – but we wanted to see for ourselves before making a decision.

The 1-inch, 20.2MP Exmore (BSI) sensor coupled with the reasonably fast Carl Zeiss 29-100mm f/1.8-4.9 lens make this a formidable ally when tackling low-light photography. The large sensor means that you can bump the ISO all the way up to 3200 and still not worry about grain. Quite something coming from this tiny creature. Sony has also finally added a much-need hot-shoe on the top.

What we are disappointed with is the fact that other than providing a hot-shoe,

Sony doesn't seem to have done much else. The camera remains essentially the same and Sony could have at least taken the trouble to tweak the sensor or, more than anything, improved upon the lens.

If you can look past that short coming, and the exorbitant asking price, this

is a great camera when it comes to performance. It could have been just that little bit better though. *Swapnil Mathur*

73.5 ratures

| Features | <i>(</i> U |
|-------------|------------|
| Performance | 80 |
| Design | 80 |
| Value | 65 |

Specifications

Sensor: 20.2 Megapixels Exmor; Lens: Carl Zeiss 28-100mm f/1.8-4.9 Vario Sonnar T*; Video: 1920x1080 at 30 frames per second

Contact

Sony India Phone: 1800-103-7799 Email: sonyindia.care@ ap.sony.com Website: www.sony.co.in

Digit | October 2013 | www.thinkdigit.com 83



Bazaar

Few iOS 7 tricks If you upgraded from iOS 6 to iOS 7, check out these few tips for Apple's spiffy mobile OS. http://dgit.in/14rV4Hh



Total mass of all humans is... Want to know how much the human race weighs? Find out about all that and more by clicking the link

here http://dgit.in/1dx7UXA

HP ENVY TouchSmart 14

The better ultrabook - excellent performance and battery life

here is no doubt that the ENVY TouchSmart 14 feels solidly built and our standard build quality tests match up to our initial impressions. The keyboard on the device is also excellent. HP seems to be working on its keyboards as the last few notebooks we've received from them have sported some of the best keyboards we've seen on Windows laptops. The design is very similar to that on the MacBook Pro 13 and thus, the keys are comfortable with precise travel and a sharp response.

The performance numbers are good, but not in the same



| Features80 | |
|---------------|--|
| Performance85 | |
| Build85 | |
| Value70 | |

Specifications

Processor: Intel Core i5-4200U; RAM: 4GB; Graphics: Intel HD4400; Display: 14-inch (1366 x 768 pixels) with touchscreen; Storage: ITB HDD; Connectivity: 3x USB ports, memory card reader, HDMI out; OS: Windows 8 (64-bit); Weight: 1.99kg

Contact

HP India Phone: N.A. Email: http://www8.hp.com/in/en/ contact-hp/contact.html



league as the Core i5-3317U or the Core i5-3230M Ivy Bridge chips, but that's a small price to pay for the massive improvements in battery life that Haswell promises. The Intel HD4400 graphics also performs only slightly better than the HD4000 series.

The TouchSmart 14 registered 251 minutes in the battery benchmark test. When used as a primary laptop, the battery lasted around 6.5 hours - brightness set at 70%, Wi-Fi connected throughout and music playback via iTunes for a couple of hours. This is more probably due to the presence of the Haswell chip than anything else. Still, the battery life is a bit short of the best we've seen.

The HP ENVY TouchSmart 14 is an ultrabook that should appeal to most people. It's well-built, has an excellent keyboard and Haswell is an added bonus. The performance is consistent and the machine a delight to use. This is an excellent device and you really can't go wrong if you pick one up.

Vishal Mathur

Nokia Asha 501 The ideal first feature phone



or its price the Asha 501 has a very good touchscreen. The design of the 501 takes a leaf from the Lumia series of smartphones, making it one of the best-built budget phones in the market. It isn't polycarbonate, but the plastic is very strong. The performance of the rear camera is lacklustre. The interface is interesting. You can swipe down at any point, just like Android to see your notifications. It comes preloaded with a bunch off. The graphics of the games are very basic and there are no accelerometer capabilities on the device.



| Features | 70 |
|-------------|----|
| Performance | 80 |
| Value | 80 |
| Design | 80 |

Specifications

Display: 3-inch with a 240x320 pixel resolution with 2-finger multitouch; **Storage:** 128MB built-in storage (expandable up to 32GB via a microSD card); **Camera:** 3.15MP camera (without a flash); **OS:** Nokia Asha software platform 1.0

Contact

Nokia India Email: http://dgit.in/15i38gp Phone: +91(11) 30303838

Spice Coolpad Mi-515

A run-of-the-mill Android smartphone



he Coolpad Mi-515 has a design very reminiscent of Samsung's Galaxy series. The UI is a lightly skinned version of Android and comes preloaded with a bunch of apps. The preloaded security apps are interesting. One such app is the Vault, which keeps content secure. The touch response of the display is good for playing games, navigating websites and for typing. The biggest downside of the device is that the resolution of the display, which is very low.



| Features70 | |
|---------------|--|
| Performance60 | |
| Value50 | |
| Design50 | |

Specifications

Display: 5-inch IPS LCD display with 960x540 pixel resolution; CPU: quad-core 1.2GHz processor; RAM: 1GB RAM; Storage: 4GB built-in expandable up to 32GB via a microSD card; Camera: 5MP rear camera & VGA video call camera; OS: Android 4.1; Battery: 2000mAh battery.

Contact

Spice Email: customercare@smobility.in Phone: 011 - 42921000



Xbox One, PS4 can hook up As incredible as it sounds, it's actually true. Does that mean you can play KillZone on the new Xbox One? The possibilities! http://dgit.in/lflxN5T



Video: Making the Moto X Did you know that the Moto X is designed and manufactured completely in America? Take a look at this factory video to see how it's put together.

Bazaar

Cooler Master QuickFire TK When smaller is better but unnecessarily expensive

Features

| Features | 73 |
|----------|----|
| Build | 85 |
| Value | 55 |

Specifications

Key Type: Cherry MX Red Mechanical keys; Actuation Force: 45g(max 60 g); Polling Rate(in Hz): 1000 Hz; nKR0: Full; Cable Length: 1.8 metre; Weight: 544 grams; Warranty: 2 years

Contact

Cooler Master Co. Ltd. Phone: 9820207871 Email: sanket_naik@ coolermaster.com.tw Website: www. coolermaster.in ome people crib about desk space when it comes to gaming keyboards as many of them occupy a lot of space. The Quickfire TK from CM Storm is a keyboard which

has an extremely small footprint and keeps your craving for desk space in check. Being a mechanical keyboard, the Quickfire TK has Cherry MX Red key switches with nKRO support. In order to cut down on the size of this keyboard, CM has merged

the numpad with the directional and action buttons and this unusual layout may take some getting used to. The Quickfire TK has complete backlighting for each key, with three modes of opeartion, namely, breathing mode, WASD only mode and full mode along with five brightness levels, all of which can be adjusted using the "Fn" key combination. Multimedia keys are also present, but require the use of function key combinations. The backlight is very bright and you can easily see the letters even under bright light. The cable on the keyboard is braided and is

detachable, making it easy for the user to take the Quickfire TK along to LAN parties. They've also provided a key removal tool using which you can remove keys and clean the area under them. At ₹8,000, the

Quickfire TK is expensive for a pint-sized keyboard with missing keys. This is a gaming only keyboard and anyone who wants to use it for typing, or requires the numpad, will tear their hair out in frustration. Unfortunately for this keyboard, the very high-price puts it into the same league as much better mechanical keyboards. *Siddhant Sharma*

Tt esports Poseidon

9.9

An inexpensive mechanical keyboard

he name of this keyboard might have rung a few bells in your mind, but nonetheless, this keyboard has nothing to do with the Greek God of the sea except its name of course. The Poseidon is a fully mechanical gaming keyboard with complete

blue backlighting. Accessory wise, there isn't anything extra provided with this keyboard but you won't actually need anything else when using it. Usually, mechanical keyboards

are very large, but this one is small even by membrane keyboard standards. Not only is it small, the spacing between its keys is also a bit less, but it won't affect most people when they use it. Thermaltake has used Cherry MX blue key switches on the Poseidon and you get that clickety clack sound after every key press. The keys are etched and have individual LEDs for backlighting, so you get uniform backlighting across the keyboard. With four levels of backlight, this lighting is suitably customizable. The lighting is also exceedingly bright if required. The keyboard has multimedia keys coupled with the

function keys. A Windows key disable switch exists on the Poseidon as well which prevents unnecessary Windows key presses while gaming. The keyboard is sturdily built

and has cable routing space at the back. At the price, this is a good gaming keyboard with basic features and all of the keys if you are going the mechanical way. But if you really like smallersized keyboards, then you might wanna take a look at the CM Storm QuickFire TK.

Siddhant Sharma



| Features | 68 |
|----------|----|
| Build | 81 |
| Value | 80 |

Specifications

Key Type: Cherry MX Blue Mechanical keys; Actuation Force: 50g (max 60 g); Polling Rate(in Hz): 1000 Hz; nKR0: 6-8 keys; Cable Length: 1.8 metre; Weight: 995 grams; Warranty: 2 years

Contact

Thermaltake Phone: +886 (0)2-87975788 Website: http://dgit.in/ BuyTt



iPhone 5S teardown Deep inside the iPhone 5S lie a few surprises that no one really expected to find. Check out what all the fuss is about. http://dgit.in/18HXzsk



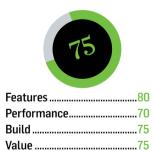
Google Glass shatters a lot Barely six months after launch, multiple reports emerging confirm Google Glass' extremely fragile build and longevity issues. http://dgit.in/16mwLqL

Dell Inspiron One 2020 AIO

A space saving solution, but not a very powerful one



he basic purpose of the affordable All-in-One solution is the space saving solution. This is mainly because you get the entire PC in the footprint of what would usually be a flat panel monitor. The Dell Inspiron One 2020 that we are reviewing has the Intel Core i3-3240T processor clocking at 2.9GHz with 4GB of RAM and a 500GB hard drive. The 20-inch display has a resolution of 1600 x 900 pixels, and



Specifications

Processor: Intel Core i3-3240T dual core @ 2.9GHz; RAM: 4GB; Graphics: Intel Graphics 2500; Display: 20-inch (1600 x 900) touchscreen; Storage: 1TB hard drive; OS: Windows 8

Contact

Dell India Pvt. Ltd. Phone: 1800-425-4026 Website: www.dell.com that really is where the real highlight is - the touchscreen. Though you get the wireless keyboard and mouse with the machine, Windows 8 on a touchscreen is something else altogether. If only the OS were a bit more optimized.

Performance-wise, the machine needs a lot of cleanup after the first boot - removing un-needed software and trials etc, before it can really come up to the level you would expect. However, this processor is only really meant for basic daily computing tasks, as the PC Mark O7 score of 2603 showed. Multitask, and there will be the inevitable slowdown. Gaming, again isn't something that the Inspiron One 2020 can handle, with the Intel Graphics 2500. Cinebench OpenGL registered just 9.53 fps in the test. But, HD media files played back very smoothly and there was no stutter while skipping the timeline of a 1080p rip.

Who is this machine meant for, you ask? Ideal for anyone who needs a machine for basic/light computing tasks *Visbal Mathur*

Huawei MediaPad 10 Link

An Android tablet with an interesting UI



tablet has a dualtone colour giving it an elegant finish. The rear houses two speakers and it boasts of Dolby Digital Plus support. The tablet is well built and comfortable to hold for prolonged use. It runs on Android 4.1 Jelly Bean and has its own custom Emotion UI overlaying the OS, which borrows elements from iOS. All the apps reside on the home screen. The real world performance of the tablet is good be it for browsing the Internet, playing games, watching movies and more.



| Performance | 60 |
|-------------|----|
| Value | 60 |
| Design | 70 |
| • | |

Specifications

Display: 10.1-inch IPS display @ 1280x800; CPU: quad-core 1.2GHz CPU; RAM: 1GB RAM; Storage: 16GB storage expandable up to 32GB via a micro SD card; Camera: 3.15MP rear camera and a VGA front camera; OS: Android 4.1; Battery: 6600mAh battery.

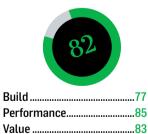
Contact

Huawei India Phone: 1800-209-6555 Email: service.hw.in@huawei.com

Seagate 600 SSD 240GB Guess who's back?



eagate has been missing \bigcirc from the SSD market and that's about to change with the release of the 600 SSD series. The drive uses a LAMD LM87800 controller which is pretty close to the Corsair Neutron and GTX series in terms of performance. Sequential transfer speedsw averaged at 500.12 MB/s(Read) and 451.67 MB/s(Write) which is pretty standard these days for SSDs. The build quality is pretty good with the metal casing acting as a directly attached heatsink for the controller. There is Pro variant for those interested in data integrity. They have 4 big capacitors which should supply power for all transfers to complete prior to power down.



Specifications

ST240HM000; Form factor: 2.5 inch; Dimensions: 7x69.85x100.45 mm; Controller: Link A Media LM87800; 256 MB RAM; Toshiba MLC NAND; Warranty: 3 years

Contact

Fortune Marketing Phone: 011 - 2641 4468 Email: Sales@fortune-it.com Web site: www.seagate.com

YAHOO! My Yahoo redesigned After a new logo, Yahoo's now redesigned its My Yahoo page, offering more customization options. Did you give it a try? http://dgit.in/18JWo5P



NVIDIA's 7-inch Tegra tablet For gaming enthusiasts, NVIDIA unveiled a new 7-inch, 1280x800 pixel Tegra 4 based tablet at a price tag of US \$199. Pricey? http://dgit.in/1b0I4xB

Corsair Obsidian 900D

The largest, most awesome case in the market today?

he Corsair Obsidian 900D is Corsair's new flagship case that replaces the Obsidian 800D. You'll see that this case is one of the largest case we've ever tested. The Cooler Master Cosmos II is only a bit larger than this but doesn't offer as much flexibility. The front of this case has a full brushed aluminium finish with the drive bays also having brushed aluminium panels. The bottom front panel pops out to reveal a big push-toremove dust filter, behind which you'll find three, pre-installed static pressure fans. A push-to-release plate at the front hides the front I/O panel and has four USB 2.0 and two USB 3.0 ports among the usual audio jacks.



| Features | 87 |
|-----------------|-----|
| Performance | .92 |
| Build Quality | .90 |
| Value for money | .85 |

Specifications

Dimension: 649.6 x 252 x 691.6 mm; Motherboard Support: Mini-ITX, mATX, ATX, E-ATX, XL-ATX, HPTX; Expansion Slots: 10; Form Factor: Full-tower; Drive Bays: (x4) 5.25", (x9) 3.5"/2.5"; Cooling: Front 3x120mm, Rear 1x140mm; Front I/O: (x2) USB 3.0, (x1) Headphone, (x1) Mic; Weight: 18.6Kg

Contact

Corsair Memory Email: indiaservice@corsair.com Website: www.corsair.com Warranty: 2 years



The top of the case is a big, meshed removable panel with a dust filter attached to it. But the best part about the 900D has to be its side panel, which has a big, smoked, acrylic window that lets you show off the innards of a system built inside. It's a cinch to open the side panels using the provided buttons at the back of the case, which if pressed, pops the panel out. Each of the sides of the 900D has two doors with one being the bigger door to access the motherboard area and the other one being a smaller one at the bottom that lets users access the hot swappable drive bays built into the case. The interior of the 900D is as intimidating as the exterior with a huge area for installing even XL-ATX and HPTX boards and the entire motherboard trav is replete with strategically

ment cutouts covered by rubber grommets. Another interesting feature of the 900D is the space for installing two PSUs simultaneously, but there won't be many people out there who would do this. The Obsidian 900D is primed for liquid cooling as it has space for some for some of the most elaborate liquid cooling setups a person can think of. There is space for installing a full size 480mm radiator at the top, another

placed cable manage-

480mm at the bottom on one side, a 240mm on the other side at the bottom as well, a 140mm radiator at the rear and finally, a 360mm radiator at the front; you can go nuts with the 900D while building a liquid cooled rig. If you need more space(we hardly think you will) but you can remove the hard drive cages and make more room. Most of the parts of it use screws instead of rivets to allow for modding options. With the internal cabinet temperature being 32.5°C when idle and 38.5°C under full load to the test setup, the performance is nothing short of impressive. At ₹30,000 the Obsidian 900D is an excellent case but it's definitely not for the faint of heart. One should go for it if they are building a fully blown, no-holds-barred water-cooled setup.

Siddbant Sharma

Calibre ULTRA'Go Mini power station

Well built & capable



he ULTRA'Go Mini packs in Price ₹4,799

a 3500mAh battery inside an all-aluminum enclosure. Simply put, a fully charged ULTRA'Go Mini can charge a completely discharged iPhone 5 twice, and then some. The device has a standard USB port allowing you to connect any device specific USB cable to it. We have used this device to charge a variety of smartphones (Android and iOS), and the charging times are very much at par with what you would get from the proper wall charger. Multiple colour options are available as well - Titanium Grev, Burgundy Red, Charcoal Black and Metal Silver.



| Features7 | 5 |
|--------------|----|
| Performance9 | 0 |
| Build9 | 15 |
| Value8 | 5 |

Specifications

Type: portable USB charger; Capacity: 3500mAh; Build: Aluminum; In the box: micro USB cable, micro-fiber pouch; Compatibility: All smartphones and tablets

Contact

Calibre Style Phone: N.A. Email: sales@calibre-style.com

Facebook ramping up Al

In an attempt to know what all our posts really mean, Facebook's hard at work on an innovative new AI that will better understand status updates. http://dgit.in/lfkIcXZ



Lumia 1020: Best phone cam Read this in-depth analysis of the new Nokia Lumia 1020's camera. But is it good enough to make it the best smartphone out there? http://dgit.in/19miGNh

MSI GTX 770 Lightning

Bazaar

The finest GTX 770 we've tested



he GTX 770 lightning is MSI's top of the line GTX 770 and has their Twin Frozr IV custom cooler. The card has a nice design with a full metal shroud over the heatsink. At the back of the card you'll find a small circular cover for MSI's custom GPU power supply module which they call "GPU Reactor". This module lights up when you power on the system giving your PC a cool look from the inside. Since this card comes with a factory overclocked base clock of 1150MHz instead of the reference 1046MHz, the performance numbers we received peg this as the fastest 770 we've ever received, with Sniper Elite V2 scores at 38fps @ 1080p (max).



| Features | 87 |
|-----------------|----|
| Performance | 85 |
| Build Quality | 88 |
| Value for money | 64 |

Specifications

Base Clock: 1150 MHz; Boost Clock: 1202 MHz; Memory: 2048MB; Memory bus width: 256-bit; Display Ports: 2xDVI, 1xHDMI, 1xDisplayPort; Warranty: 3 Years.

Contact

Acro Engineering Company Email: saini@smcinternational.in Website: www.smcinternational.in

QuickHeal Total Security for Android Powerful and power hungry



uickheal's desktop AV suites have always boasted of consistently excellent performance and their Total Security suite for Android is supposed to carry forward that legacy to Android devices. The suite is easy to install and comes with many features that are very functional, but there's nothing we haven't seen before. The suite is also a bit of a resource hog and we noticed up to a 20% drop in our web browsing performance (peacekeeper and futuremark). This is at odds with what we've come to expect from mobile AV suites. On the other hand, this suite seems to be taking the trouble to scan apps as and when they're opened. Scanning options are good.



| System Impact75 |
|---------------------|
| Parental controls85 |
| Value for money65 |
| |

Specifications

Features: Remote wipe; remote lock; anti-virus; anti-theft; call and SMS block; parental controls; data and performance monitor; autobackup and more

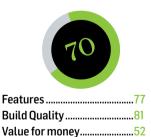
Contact

QuickHeal Phone: +91 927-22-33-000 Website: http://dgit.in/1b0ZGpt

Logitech G510s An expensive keyboard



here are tons of gaming keyboards out there and the Logitech G510s stands out for having some frills attached to it. One of which is the configurable LCD panel which can display the system performance, game statistics and a lot of other stuff. With custom RGB colour backlighting, you can assign colours to keys for every profile and by default you get three modes using the mode switch keys. For the discernible RTS/MMORPG gamers, there exist 18 G-keys on the G510s which can be assigned macros per key per profile. The keyboard driver software works like a charm and gaming on it was decent too. At ₹9,995 the Logitech G51Os is expensive, granted it has a lot of extra features but it's only a membrane keyboard and none of the features justify its price.



Specifications

Key Type: Membrane keys; Macro keys: 18 keys x 3 profiles; Audio ports: 1 x mic jack, 1 x headphone jack; Warranty: 3 years

Contact

Logitech Electronic India Phone: 022- 33416111 Website: www.logitech.com/en-in

Cygnett Lavish Connect Folio keyboard for iPad

A must-have keyboard



he Cygnett Lavish Folio has a very formal and businesslike look and design. The material used is of very good quality and can take a certain amount of abuse without tearing or scratching. The key design and size is on the chunkier side and travel is adequate and assists in precision for good and quick typing. Yes, you will need to get used to the no-spacing design, possibly made that way in order to save space without actually having to make the keys smaller. For once, we get a keyboard that doesn't shirk away from a palmrest. You may claim ignorance to that fact, but the lack of a palmrest is a major hinderance if you are typing out articles for considerable amounts of time at a stretch.



| Features | 75 |
|-------------|----|
| Performance | 85 |
| Build | 85 |
| Value | 70 |

Specifications

Type: Folio case with keyboard and stand; Compatibility: Apple iPad 2 /3/4; Battery: Yes; Connectivity: Bluetooth; Color: Black

Contact

Cygnett Phone: NA Website: http://dgit.in/15QAr8D

World Vor De La Company de la

(MUST READS)



HOW EVIL IS TOO EVIL?

Video-game violence is, like all onscreen violence, an act of play. But the medium has a unique capacity to inveigle, and even implicate, its audience through its interactivity. Now that we've seen mandatory playable acts of torture in GTA V, New Yorker tries to answer the inevitable question of how evil should a video game allow you to be?

http://dgit.in/wwevilgm

GET PAID TO STAY IN BED FOR 70 DAYS

In a quintessential first world scenario, NASA is currently looking to pay a number of volunteers \$18,000 to lie in bed for 70 days. But even here there's competition. They don't want just any couch potato. There's a physical test to qualify. Follow the link to apply:

http://dgit.in/spacepotato

SEX AND POLITICS AT GOOGLE

Behind the banalities of every coding at Google, there's apparently a lot of instances of employees engaged in acts of non-computational parallel processing, if you know what we mean. This story from Business Insider gives you the inside scoop on the darker side of Google. http://dgit.in/wwgsaxx

[Verge Corner]

APPLE IPHONE 5S REVIEW



As with everything else, The Verge seems to have gotten hold of the iPhone 5S before most people. In this extensive review, David Pierce tries to find out if the best iPhone ever, really is a better phone? http://dgit.in/wwiphone5s



Apple iPhone 5C review Well, as long as you're reading the 5S review above, you might as well check out what The Verge thinks of the iPhone 5C. "It is less a new product than it is a vibrant reminder that Apple has the best marketing team in the business," says Nilay Patel. http://dgit.in/wwiphone5c



BlackBerry to retreat from consumer market

The Z10 launch has been a disaster for BlackBerry. The company is rumoured to lay off 4,500 employees soon and is looking to the enterprise market as its only means of survival. Read the full report on The Verge: http://dgit.in/wwbbrry



The best hidden features in iOS 7 Apple claims that there are "over 200" new features in its new OS, and by now you've probably heard all about the big changes. Some of you reading this may have already upgraded to the OS. Now check out its hidden features: http://dgit.in/wwhiddn

WHY IS THE IPHONE 5C CASE SO HIDEOUS?

This is something we, and many other other people have been wondering. All that you can see through the croc holes is "non". What was Apple thinking? Such design missteps will, hopefully, be rectified: http://dgit.in/wwnon

HOW TO SPOT FAKE GADGETS

Sometimes things are not as simple as spotting the Nokla or Abble typo. And apparently counterfeiters sell \$700 billion worth of fake products every year. Here's an extensive list including fake Amazon Kindle chargers, Xbox controllers and a whole lot more: http://dgit.in/wwfakez

SWITCHING FROM IPHONE TO ANDROID?



If you are one those few people

in the world who weren't quite impressed with the iPhone 5S or 5C and don't see yourself upgrading your old iPhone this could be a good guide to help you cross over to the light. http://dgit.in/zeswicher

FROM MONGOLIA TO MIT

How does a student from a country in which a third of the population is nomadic, living in round, white felt tents called gers on the vast steppe, ace an M.I.T. course even though nothing like this is typically taught in Mongolian schools? Read the amazing story of the boy genius of ulan bator http://dgit.in/wwgenuis

The iPhone 5S: What we like

The successor to the iPhone 5 is here. We take a look at some of the cool features of the new flagship from Apple.

- By Vishal Mathur

Before the launch of the iPhone 5S, a lot was speculated about its hitherto unseen features. It was almost as if people were expecting the iPhone 5's successor to have the ability to fly into outerspace, repair the International Space Station, and land on the desk. On a more serious and realistic note, now that the phone has finally been unveiled, let's give you the lowdown on what kind of features it packs in. The iPhone 5s is exactly what we would expect, minor improvements and a couple of upgrades - no disappointments there. And of course, lest we forget, you can now purchase the phone in gold. So let's see what's new.

A7 Processor: The new A7 processor from Apple is something new and while Apple's claim to have gone 64-bit is true, the actual changes are far more intelligent and you'll have to delve deeper into to extract its secrets. What's special about the iPhone 5S is not just the processor, it's the architecture that's involved and more importantly, the ARMv8 instruction set. The instruction set brings about massive boosts in JavaScript and encryption performance and minor, but no less significant tweaks in a myriad of other areas. Overall, the performance gains are tremendous. The A7 is so powerful in fact, it seems to be giving Intel's latest Bay Trail atoms a run for their money.

LTE support: The iPhone 5s (and the iPhone 5c) support more Long Term Evolution (LTE) bands than any other smartphone in the world. Just as a refresher - LTE is a 4G data network technology standard that is now being used in the newer 4G networks globally. The iPhone 5s supports 13

LTE bands, which includes TD-LTE, the one we're using, or planning to use, in India. The 13 band LTE support means both new iPhones will support TD-LTE in Band 40. This is the same band that Airtel and RIL's Jio Infocom will use for the upcoming 4G networks in India. At least till we get any official confirmation regarding the support, either from the operators or from Apple, it's safe to assume that the iPhone 5s will be ready to get you connected to 4G networks in India if and when they arrive. The only flagship smartphone to do so right now.



M7 motion co-processor: Working alongside the new 64-bit A7 processor is the M7 motion co-processor that will take up some load on itself and free up the primary processor for other tasks. The M7 will handle data from the accelerometer, the magnetometer, and the gyroscope. The way the system is designed, the M7 will accept and interpret almost all the motion data and intelligently wake-up the A7 as and when required, leading to huge boosts in battery life. Or so Apple claims. Nike+ Move has already been updated to utilize the M7

motion co-processor. As with the Moto-X however, while the technology exists, it will be some time before apps can fully realize the potential of this technology. The option is there though, for those who need it.

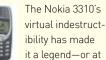
Biometrics: The TouchID system that Apple has implemented is one of the biggest new features in the new phone. The idea behind the system is simple, authentication is becoming more and more of a pain in the neck and passwords are too cumbersome to type. The TouchID replaces your account password and phone unlock pin with a scan of your fingerprint. Access to your phone and iTunes store is now literally only a touch away. The sensor is essentially a grid of capacitors that map your fingerprints. Apple has also taken the trouble to place a sapphire crystal cap on the sensor to prevent it from getting scratched. A stainless steel activation ring detects when a finger is properly placed and wakes up the sensor when required. This is a very interesting feature that we hope to see more off in the near future.

True Tone Flash: Flash photography on cell phones has always been a nightmare thanks to how washed out the photos come out. However, the True Tone flash on the iPhone 5S shakes things up a bit by incorporating two flashes. What's interesting is that of the two flashes, one is warm and the other is cool. The camera examines the ambient light and then fires up the two flashes simultaneously, individually adjusting the power of each flash to provide a suitable colour tone. The flash is finally usable again. http://dgit.in/l6mfFgJ

THE SCIENCE OF SNOBBERY

Research can suggest that you don't actually enjoy wine, classical music, or even fancy foods. But the snobs aren't making it all up. Some research suggests that those judging classical music judged the competition based on visual information just as amateurs do. So is there any truth to it? Read on to find out: http://dgit.in/wwsnoby

THE PHONE THAT WON'T DIE



least the subject of countless internet memes. It has been thrown, smashed, run over, shot and even set on fire. The New Yorker has its own tribute: http://dgit.in/3310ftw

TAKE BACK THE INTERNET!

"The US government has betrayed the internet. We need to take it back," says Bruce Schneier. The NSA has undermined a fundamental social contract and he believes engineers who built the internet now have a moral responsibility to fix it? For more of his suggestions read his article on The Guardian: http://dgit.in/wwiback

THE STRANGE STORY OF SKYPE

What if people could transfer their words, like a telephone, without a phone and the bills? That's probably what someone, somewhere thought, and thus was born Skype. As the service turned 10 recently, Ars Technica takes a look back at how six Europeans changed the world. Follow the link to find out more: http://dgit.in/wwskype

The iPhone 5S: What we don't like

Yes we're not fanboys. The iPhone 5S isn't all awesome, obviously. Here we present some of things that left us wanting more.

hen Apple announced the much-anticipated iPhone 5S to the world last month most agreed the device is everything the rumour mills said it would be. In terms of its looks the device shares its dimensions with last year's iPhone 5. The improvements or rather the changes to the smartphone come under the hood with the processor, camera performance, the ability to recognize your fingerprint and more.

Even though there are some features that we liked and listed on the page alongside there are some features that we didn't. Here is a look at some of the features that failed to impress us.

The camera: We are now in the era of Ultrapixels and noticeably large sensors creeping into flagship cameras, but we have here the iPhone 5S with no resolution bump, which the company justifies as a trade-off of increasing sensor area and pixel pitch. The HTC One has bigger pixel pitch (2 microns vs. 1.5 microns on the iPhone 5S) and the Sony Xperia Z1 has a larger sensor (1/2.3"). We're not even going to drag the Nokia Lumia 1020 into this comparison as that would be like bringing out a howitzer to a gun fight. The aperture of f/2.2 is also not very impressive when compared with other flagships such as the Sony Xperia Z1 (f/2.0) and the HTC One (f/2.0). Lastly, the lack of optical image stabilization is rather disappointing. The camera feels like an incremental bump from its predecessor when Apple really needed a game changer. Imaging is becoming really important in the mobile field and while the bundled



camera is good, it might just be falling behind over time.

No NFC: It's taken for granted that if you have a premium smartphone, it will support NFC. Check again, the iPhone 5S still doesn't support NFC. NFC can be used to make payments (Google Wallet is a good example of that), data transfer (touching two NFC enabled smartphones to transfer data), and even to wirelessly charge some smartphones. There are a lot of accessory makers that make NFC enabled accessories for smartphones, the most popular among them being speakers. If you want to wirelessly play music from your iPhone, you will need an AirPlay enabled speaker. Why can't Apple just go mainstream and adopt NFC? Or will it be the next big feature in the iPhone 6? Bumping two devices to transfer data is not as uncool as Apple would like you to think.

- By Sameer Mitha

Not weatherproof: Sony wasn't even in the top three of our recommendations list when it came to Android smartphones. That has changed ever since the launch of the Xperia Z series of devices. Not only are they well-built but they're also weatherproof. We have put this claim to the test and we are happy to say that if you are clumsy enough to take your smartphone in the shower with you, you need to own the Sony Xperia Z. There are a number of smartphones available that boast of dust and waterproof capabilities and even though the iPhone 5S is a well-built smartphone, one splash of water and the device will be rendered useless. Sure, there are third party cases available to protect the smartphone but being really sturdy and above all weather proof is something we hoped the device would be straight out of the box.

Same 4-inch display: The iPhone 5S has a 4-inch Retina Display with an 1136x640 pixel resolution giving it a pixel density of 326PPI. We have seen a lot of smartphones launch in the market such as the Galaxy S4, Xperia Z1, Xperia Z, LG Optimus G2 and more that have crossed the 400PPI pixel density mark. Even though the display of the iPhone looks good, it is really small when compared to the competition.

Screen size: Apple is still stubbornly sticking to the maxim that "4-inches is the ideal size". It would be so much better if Apple could just jump off its high horse for just a minute and realise that people are asking, nay, clamouring for phones with larger screens.

http://dgit.in/1d7biba

(worldview)

MKBHD

Marques Brownlee comes up with some nice tech videos. Fast, breezy and easy to understand this channel should be on your



bookmark list. He does get too mobile-centric, but hey it's a hot category so we're not complaining. http://dgit.in/wwmkbhd

(QR Code)



For a list of all the links from this section, head over to http://dgit.in/woct2013 Or point your phone to the QR code above

(PRODUCT LAUNCHES)

IPHONE 5S

P34G ULTRABLADE



Finally launched, the phone now packs in some incredible features such as the A7 processor with 64-bit architecture and an M7 coprocessor specifically meant for reading sensor data. The home button now doubles up as a fingerprint scanner for authentication and the camera sensor is slightly bigger. Price: \$719 for 16GB



The gaming laptop from Gigabyte packs in a 4th generation Intel Core i7 Quad-Core processor and GTX 760M discrete graphics. But what's really great about it is that you get all of this in an incredibly slim and lightweight body just 21mm thick and 1.67Kg heavy. Price: between \$999 - \$1599 depending on specs.

IPHONE 5C



The 5C is Apple's new "unapologetically plastic" and delightfully colourful addition to the iPhone lineup. It uses the same A6 processor and camera found on the iPhone 5. The phone packs in a 4-inch 1136x640pixel resolution display at 326 ppi. Price: \$599 for 16GB

WORDJUMBLE

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ABSOLUTE TIMEPASS

In the word grid alongside, you can find names of popular technology companies featured in our MAFIA SAGAS cover story from the August issue. Find them all.

Top 3 You Tube Picks



Timelapse rocket move Duration: 1 min 57 sec

Watch in wonderment as the phallic projectile prepares to shoot its load into space. http://dgit.in/wwrockt



Survive a lightning strike Duration: 2 mins 33 sec

What would be your best bet – a rubber suit, a superman costume or medieval armour? http://dgit.in/lightzng



Make sure your boss doesn't catch you goofing off with

one of these videos playing on your screen

Voyager in Interstellar Space Duration: 2 mins 09 sec

After decades of exploration, Voyager 1 reaches a historic milestone for mankind http://dgit.in/wwspace



Microsoft ignores developers; limits Windows 8.1 RTM to manufacturers



emember Steve Ballmer's famous battle-cry of "Developers! Developers! Developers!"? Perhaps the folks over at Microsoft haven't watched that video in recent times because the company is now facing the ire of a large portion of the very developer community that Ballmer once praised with heaps of exuberance and perspiration.

The reason for the frustrations of the Windows developer community is Microsoft's decision to hold back the RTM (Release to Manufacturing) build of Windows 8.1, the latest update to the latest version of Microsoft's operating system, from developers and shipping it only to hardware manufacturers. In the past, RTM builds of Windows were released to developers and MSDN subscribers (along with manufacturers) well before the final version of the OS was made available for general consumption. In the case of Windows 8.1, though, Microsoft has stated that the developers will be getting the final version of the OS along with the general public on October 17.

Microsoft has said that it expects to make updates to Windows 8.1 right till the final version is released to the public and claimed that be the reason for keeping the RTM build away from developers, since it was not the final build. Developers have shot back with complaints that they will be unable to test their apps and software to make sure they work properly when installed on the final version of Windows 8.1. Computerworld quotes Wes Miller, an analyst with research firm, Directions, on Microsoft, who underscored developer concerns, "It's all about the apps. You can't make 8.1 apps unless you have the final code." Microsoft has countered saying that the rapid update and deployment cycle it has introduced with Windows 8 means that there have to be changes with the way updates are released for Windows. "We are moving to a world of more continuous updates delivered in-product. This rapid release schedule means our customers. including our large community of developers, are getting access to updates at a much faster pace. We are working to streamline that experience by delivering product updates through the Windows Store. For developers who want to begin building and testing apps for Windows 8.1, they already have all the tools they need using Visual Studio 2013 Preview and Windows 8.1 Preview," reads a statement released by a Microsoft spokesperson.

However, developers have responded by pointing out the flaws in the Windows 8.1 Preview that was released on June 26, including performance issues that have yet to be fixed. >

Read the entire article at <u>http://dgit.in/19Yxpmq</u> and share your comments.



*Sequel to MySQL

>>MySQL has long been the database of choice for some of the world's mostvisited sites, including the servers behind Twitter and Facebook. The future of MySQL is uncertain however and many pf these sites are looking for some alternative. http://dgit.in/16B49v8

*Gigabit internet? Check. What now?

>>Google has been a big proponent for high-speed internet, but what does one do with it? At the Gigabit Explorer Challenge, Google hopes to find out. http://dgit.in/16loGcM



*PayPerView Web

>>Verizon has proposed a plan that involves charging websites for the packets they send. Is this the end of the Internet as we know it? Read:

http://dgit.in/1aYxpQr



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worx>

The Nokia Hackathon Report

>>The 24-Hour coding Fiesta, for the GREATER GOOD > **by Swapnil Mathur**

okia has had a long standing reputation for not just making great phones, but also for being a company that has prided itself in it's long standing tradition for holding social causes very close to its corporate heart. They were one of the first companies way back to implement an eco-friendly packaging design, with all their material being made of recycled paper and later switched to smaller chargers that were better for the environment. Continuing that tradition, Nokia India, in partnership with Devworx set out on a three city "Hackathon" in the hopes of achieving something good, for a greater cause.

The Goal

Nokia hosted three such Hackathons, in Delhi (29th&3Oth June), Bangalore (6th&7th July) and Pune (27th & 28th July), respectively. It saw a large number of creative minds come together to create apps for Windows Phone and S4O platforms. More than 6OO ideas were received across cities, out of which approximately 12O top ideas were selected to for the program. The Hackathons had developers focus on any of the three areas that need immediate addressing, that is, health, education and environment.

The Process

After Nokia shortlisted ideas with potential, the participants were given some time from intimation till the date of the actual Hackathon to start developing their apps. On the day of the Hackathon, many participants arrived with semi-complete apps. At the Hackathon, a 24 hour coding extravaganza, is where these developers would finish coding their apps, fighting through sleep and fatigue. However, it didn't end there. At the end of the event, all developers/teams had



Developers hard at work. Sans sleep and the comforts of home. 94 devworx> | October 2013 | www.devworx.in



Presentations being evaluated

to present their Apps, showcasing the ideology behind them along with a small demo.

The presentations were made in front of a panel of eminent Jurors, who evaluated each of the presentations (and apps) on two grounds; technical merits and the "Do Good" factor. The technical merits involved in evaluating the apps were ease of use, innovation and the potential for scalability.

The Do Good part of the evaluation process looked at how much of a social good the app contributed to and just how severe was the issue that the app set out to tackle. While there is seldom a fair and direct comparison between the aching needs of the health, education and environment sector, it was the Jury that made sure a fair and well balanced perspective was maintained. Apps that lived up to all the above expectations were allowed to proceed.

The Jury

Each city's Hackathon was graced by a Jury comprising of eminent educators, entrepreneurs, environmentalist and NGO workers. A healthy mix of people from every walk of life allowed the Jury to choose apps without a bias towards any one particular social cause. The Jury was asked to select 10 app ideas as the best from each city, which would then move forward to the second round of evaluation, performed by a Grand Jury.

The Grand Jury

From early August, the Nokia Do Good Hackathon brought to New Delhi 11 of the most influential minds and passionate leaders who came together with one shared goal: to unlock the potential of new

<mark>dev</mark>worx:

media and technology for making the world a better place, and then to translate that potential into action.

The Grand Jury members who reviewed the final set of selected apps to rank the winners included:

- Osama Manzar, Founder, Digital Empowerment Foundation;
- Rajiv Makhni, Managing Editor, Technology, NDTV
- Rita Soni, Head, NASSCOM Foundation
- Parul Soni, Executive Director, Ernst & Young
- Pramath Raj Sinha, Founder, 9.9 Media
- Pooran Chandra Pandey, Executive Director, Global Compact Network
- Kavita Narayan, Head, Public Health Foundation of India
- Dipankar Sanyal, CEO, TERI BCSD
- Gauri Arora, CSR Lead, Microsoft
- Soumya Sarkar, National Editor, Mint
- Don Mohanlal, CEO, The Nand & Jeet Khemka Foundation

The Grand Jury had been sent a copy of the presentations made by each of the short-listed teams for early deliberation so that when they came together into that one room, they had all their thoughts ready and organized. What followed was a long, insightful and a very lively discussion not just about the apps in question, but also about the various issues the country faces and how they can be tackled.

The Jury not only had to classify each of the city selections into Ranks of 1, 2 and 3, but also choose the top three from this talented pool for a recommendation to Nokia App Campus, which is an incredibly large amount of money for helping developers bring their ideas to life.

The Tri-City Fiesta

Each of the three Hackathons was different from the other. While Delhi saw a lot of lively youth come forward to create apps, Bangalore's crowd was more "grown-up," comprising of mostly serious, senior developers. Pune was a completely novel experience, as all the teams that entered were rather young, but also comprised of at least one graphic designer. Pune also saw got lucky with a limitless supply of RedBull and even night long entertainment thanks to the several Xbox Stations that had been setup.

Interestingly all three cities seemed to lean towards one specific issue. Delhi's participants seemed to be more environmentally conscious while Bangalore's developers were more tuned into the needs of the education sector. Pune's youth were more focussed on developing apps that would ease the pressure on medical



POV shot from the judges' side

staff, designing apps that would be helpful not just to the doctors, but also nurses, patients and even hospitals as a whole.

A few apps that really stood out from the crowd were ones like MeNeedLife, which created a social ecosystem to engage blood donors, organ donors, organ recipients and blood recipients. The app also outlines the kind of guidelines one might have to follow in order to be a donor, guidelines specific to the type of organ you are donating, etc. From Bangalore, we had an app called "Feed the Hungry", which



Intrepid developers busy discussing their work

originally started out as an app that would help various food collection agencies tie up with people/organizations who've got food to give away. All you have to input your spare/excess food into the app and the donations would be sorted out.

It was incredibly refreshing to see just how much effort these developers were willing to put into developing something that transcends the self and looks to address the issues of the larger whole. What was really good to see was that developers had gone the extra mile to travel to the host city of the Hackathon. Pune especially saw the maximum number of out-of-city participants, with nearly 50 percent out-of-towners, the farthest being from Gujarat.

The Final Verdict

The Grand Jury took their time mulling over every single idea in great depth and combining it with their awareness of the issues at hand. Here are the apps that were finally selected by the Jury.

While only some 22 odd ideas may have won a prize, Nokia made special efforts to ensure that every developer who had a worthy idea (besides these) was connected to organizations that could either help out with the development of their app, or NGOs and companies who would have actually benefitted from the app's development.

| Hackathon Winners | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------|---|--|---|--|--|--|--|--|
| City | 1st Prize- Lumia 920 | 2nd Prize- Lumia 820 | 3rd Prize- Lumia 720 | | | | | |
| Delhi | Food Wastage Prevention Have & Have not | Dentro Go Green Dots Helper | Fuel Tracker Team Board | | | | | |
| Bangalore | Feed the Hungry | Wake up Sister Missing Snap Read Improve your Infrastructure | Learning Alphabet Kannada | | | | | |
| Pune | Meneedlife Kidnee | | Sahaya Stay Healthy Forever Chhota Bheem Rise India Wecharity Immunity Buster | | | | | |

The idea of social good was not limited to just the winners, but had to encompass all the attendees of the event. The Hackathon was quite a success and it was humbling to see the dedication of these developers as they went about their work, but also an enriching and exciting experience, getting to meet many new people and understanding the various points-of-view. >





>>Bhavin Turakhia, Founder and CEO, Directi

At your keynote you emphasized the point that people should stop buying domains, but focus on building products instead. Is there something wrong with Indian web devs?

Besides the fact that I was trying to make a bold point by means of an extreme statement, yes I think we're at a pivot where, as a country, we need to focus on more and more entrepreneurs who're building products as opposed to people who're only building websites or web apps for other people. And we have the talent, amazing people, as many of our folk are the ones who're sitting in places like Google and Facebook and building all these products. Many of these guys need to take initiative and build something themselves.

India's at a cusp where we're a country of a billion people and we're extremely underserved in terms of technology products (yet) and the internet penetration is just starting to boom. So in the next 6-10 years there's going to be a lot of opportunities for technology consumption here, and either those opportunities are going to be lapped up by companies abroad who serve them or Indian entrepreneurs. And I'd rather that people here would take that step forward.

Do you think Indian developers don't congregate enough to exchange ideas and learn from each other?

I completely agree, although the scene's changing in places like Bangalore and Hyderabad and down south where there are many more activities, but yeah there are far more forums and opportunities for knowledge sharing in the US as compared to India. And this is something that needs to change.

Do you think Web devs in India are leveraging the telecom sector in our country smartly?

Yeah, that's what I meant by opportunities. I think India's in a unique position where internet penetration is still at 15% and I think it will pump up to 50% in the next four years opening up a tremendous number of opportunities. Think about a scenario where 1 out of 10 people who're connected to the internet versus 1 out of 10 people who accesses the internet. It's a massive difference, opening up a lot of opportunities in the technology space. Even more so now because every single individual in this country of over 1 billion people will be carrying a computer (your smartphone's essentially faster than your computer now), and we'll see the way people lead their lives drastically change in a decade compared to the last three or four decades. So there are a lot of opportunities to tap into, and now's the time

With so many big names joining the ecommerce industry, do you think the space is saturated for Web devs trying to make a name there?

Actually, the ecommerce space is nowhere close to even starting out. The biggest problem with e-commerce right now is the lack of payment infrastructure in the country. This is a problem unique to very few countries. India being one of them. Everywhere else, because of the prevalence of credit cards and other forms of payment, it is very easy to cover over 70 to 80 percent of the population (even more in the US). Compare that to India, where the total no. of credit cards is just shy of 20 million, which translates to a negligible percentage of our population -- and the number's not going to increase very rapidly. Ecommerce can't work if you can't figure out a payment mechanism. That's one big opportunity right there -- anybody who cracks payments in India is going to have a huge business built out for them.

If this payment problem's going to be solved, a key channel is to engage telcos. But the thing about telcos is that they think of payments as VAS (Value Added Services), where they make margins of 70 to 80 per cent. So on payments they expect a 30 per cent margin, and that just doesn't work out, you can't really work with those margins. The problem with telcos is sort of universal -nowhere in the world have telcos been great

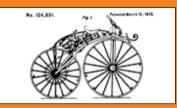
We met Bhavin at BigRock's HTTPX (http://bigrockhttpx.net), an event focused for web developers. Catch the full interview online at http://dgit.in/imposibru33. >

Read more about the happenings of the httpx event online, at: **www.thinkdigit.com** and share your comments.





A backdoor to linux? >>Linux has always had a reputation for being a secure OS, but so have many others and NSA seems to had free reign in seemingly every secure system. But what about Linux? Linus Torvalds took centrestage at LinuxCon with some interesting answers. http://dgit.in/1aYQtxZ



Patents vs. open source

>>Patents are everywhere and so broad that sifting through what's acceptable and what's not is too tedious a task. Andrew Casillas, director at linuxdefenders.org, spoke (at LinuxCon) of the work they've been doing to safeguard open-source software and keep patent trolls at bay. http://dgit.in/19wYg2S **Street smart**





Price Watch High-end smartphones and blu-ray players. Exactly what you need when you have an unlimited budget

Agent001: Assisting hapless readers since 2001

Join the indefatiguable Agent001 as he assists our hapless readers with their myriad purchase decisions. Need a gaming laptop? What about a new phone? Why not a tablet? Can I downgrade? All these and more, answered.

Which gaming laptop?

I'm a big fan of Digit and because of it have become the go to man for any advice on buying gadgets in my circle. But currently I am myself confused and need your advice.

I want to buy a gaming laptop & my budget is around 40,000 (probably under). I wish to play some high-end games like : Metro (1 & 2), Battlefield 3 & 4, Crysis 3, Dark Souls 2 etc..

And I should also be able to do few other things like watching HD movies, listening to music, video chatting, MS-Office, Adode Photoshop, Browsing etc..

I know that I am asking too much but I do want to play these games and can't increase my budget anymore.

I have shortlisted following laptops but am not able to choose which of it is the best.

- HP Pavilion G6-2312AX Laptop [APU Quad Core A10/ 4GB/ 1TB/Win8/ 512 MB AMD Radeon HD 7660G (Integrated) and DDR3 2 GB ATI Mobility Radeon 7670M HD Graphics (Dedicated)]
- 2) Lenovo Essential G505s (59-380146) Laptop [APU Quad Core A10/ 8GB/ 1TB/ DOS/ 512 MB AMD Radeon HD 8650G (Integrated) and GDDR3 2 GB ATI Sunpro HD 8570 Graphics (Dedicated)]
- 3) Lenovo Essential G500s (59-388254) Laptop { 3rd Gen Ci5/ 8GB/ 1TB/DOS/

DDR3 2 GB NVIDIA GeForce GT 720M (Dedicated) }

4) HP Pavilion G6-2313AX Laptop [APU Quad Core A10/ 6GB/1TB/ DOS/ 2.5GB Graphics (same as the G6-2312AX)]

Which one should I take? Is there any other better option in my budget in the market ? I am ready to wait till Diwali (November) if any better option is coming (of course in my budget).

Vinit Kumar

Among the options that you have selected, we would recommend the third option, the Lenovo Essential G5OOs (59-388254) Laptop (3rd Gen Core i5/ 8GB/ 1TB/DOS/ DDR3 2GB NVIDIA GeForce GT 72OM (Dedicated)). The prime reason for this selection is that while AMD APU's are extremely good when it comes to offering battery life, they tend to feel slightly sluggish when taxed. Which is why, the Intel Core i5 with a 1GB graphics card would be a better bet for your gaming requirements.

Trouble choosing a tablet Dear Sir,

Greetings. Please advise on the best tablet to buy among the following:

• WickedLeak Wammy Desire 2, ₹9,490



- Asus Google Nexus 7 (2012) 32GB (WiFi), ₹14,999
- iBall Slide Q9703, ₹15,000
- Zync 9.7, ₹14,000
- Spice Stellar Pad mi-1010, ₹9,000 Chanak Doshi

From the list of options that you have shared, the Nexus 7 is undoubtedly the best. It has a good display, powerful hardware and the best part is that it will be the first to receive Android updates. the only downside is that there is no expandable storage. Compared to the other tablets on offer, the Nexus 7 will run all the apps from the Play store very smoothly and will be great for multitasking and multimedia consumption as well.

Is this a good phone to buy?

My current phone, the Nokia 2690 is almost dead and now I want to switch over to a



Agent 001



\$100,000 per TB Oracle has come out with a columnar data server that's as fast as DRAM. But at a price. http://dgit.in/18RPG3K

smartphone. I am think of buying the Samsung Galaxy Star. PLEASE let me know if it's a good buy?

My budget lies around ₹5,000. If you can please suggest other smartphones of this range by international brands I would appreciate it. Is Nokia Asha 501 worth looking at to buy?

Thanks in advance!!!

Aishik Saha

The Samsung Galaxy Star and the Micromax Bolt A35 are the most popular Android powered smartphones in the sub 5,000 price range. Having said that, these smartphones don't deliver a satisfactory Android experience. You will face problems such as lag during multitasking, a lacklustre camera and more. The Asha 501 on the other hand is a feature phone but is really good at what it does. The interface is smooth and you do have access to popular social networking sites.

If you want a device that works well as a phone and can give you a bit of internet and multimedia use, we suggest you take a look at the Asha 501 before going in for an Android device. If, however, you can extend your budget up to ₹9,000, there are a good number of Android smartphones to choose from including the Xolo Q700 among others.

Assembling a PC

I have decided to assemble a PC in the month of October. My budget is about ₹55,000 (May be extended by a maximum of ₹5,000). Basically, i will use the PC for web development(will be running Photoshop, Illustrator etc.), running many applications and browsers at the same time, watching HD movies, and playing games like Splinter-cell,

| Component | Particulars | Price |
|---------------|----------------------------|--------|
| Processor | Intel Core i5 4570 | 14,600 |
| Motherboard | DH87-RL | 7,550 |
| RAM | Corsair Gskill Kingston | 4,450 |
| HDD | WD Seagate 1TB | 4,500 |
| Monitor | Dell S2240L | 8,950 |
| Graphics card | NVIDIA GTX 650 | 8,500 |
| Cabinet | Huntkey T91 | 1,650 |
| PSU | Corsair GS600 (V3) | 4,500 |
| Total | | 54,700 |
| Budget | | 55,000 |

Age of Empires, Need for Speed Franchise etc. I don't have any preference for either intel or AMD. Any of these will do as long as I am able to do all the work. I don't want to buy a DVD drive as i will use my LG 24x writer. The monitor should be as large as my budget would allow.

Thanks in advance.

Kinshuk Kashyap

Ă Hi Kinshuk,

Since your primary focus is towards web-development where the visuals matter we've suggested an IPS panel for the monitor. Since they are a bit expensive the maximum we could squeeze in was a 21.5" display. A quad core processor + a good graphics card + 8GB RAM would be more than sufficient to handle Photoshop and Illustrator even if you are working on a huge canvas. The i5 was selected to handle the gaming workload that AAA titles would require for the next 2-3 years. However, the GPU qualifies as the bare minimum configuration for most games so don't expect fancy graphics. If the dollar exchange rate does go down and you manage to squeeze in an extra 5k then a GTX 660Ti should suffice for max resolution gaming for about a year. An SSD does not fit into your budget and your final power consumption comes down to 340 Watts. So a 600W power supply will be more than sufficient for future upgrades and do take care to either disable the C7 power state in the BIOS or go for a Haswell compatible PSU. If you really do want a larger monitor, pick one from our killer rigs sections.

http://techreport.com/review/24897/thebig-haswell-psu-compatibility-list

Budget droid please

Hi Sameer, I'm Abhijit from Aurangabad, Maharashtra. I read the reviews by u on mobiles and this are very useful. I have to buy my first Android mobile in price segment of ₹7,000-8,000. Which mobile is having good configurations, good after sales service and other points. Guide please.

Abhijit Khairnar

Hi, Since this is your first Android smartphone, we suggest you take a look at the Xolo Q700. The smartphone has a

The last dwarf A group of French researchers claim that they've found the "cure" to dwarfism. http://dgit.in/lakmOye

good build, stock Android interface and is a good smartphone. the camera isn't the best, but budget smartphones usually do compromise in this area. The Q7OO will give you a good user experience.

I want a Nexus 7

I want to buy a 7 inch tablet and my budget is ₹15,000. I am intrested in buying a tab from the nexus series being a geek myself. I wanted to know if there is a better tablet than the nexus 7 2013 in the market. Also where can i get the nexus 7 2013 edition, 3G is not a requirement.

Anmol Dhand

A Hi, As of today there is no better Android tablet to purchase other than the second generation Nexus 7. You can get your hands on it from eBay global easy buy and maybe if you wait a bit, on the Google Play Store.

🖲 Windows 8 to Windows 7

When we buy a laptop, generally the default OS is windows 8. Can I change to windows 7 then and there?

I prefer W7. Will I be given original w-7 cd also? I mean I want W7 in exchange of W8. Kindly help me.

Subhankar Mondal



This is a tricky question. There is an official way to downgrade to Windows 7, but you can only do that with copies of Windows 8 Pro that come with "downgrade rights". Some OEMs, including Lenovo, give you the option to downgrade if you ask them before purchase. Here's a complete guide that will help you. http://dgit.in/19vHWRf

digit killer Rigs Everything you'll ever need to build your own PC. Whatever your budget.

📕 Basic rig = ₹26,550 📕 HTPC = ₹29,447 📕 Entry-level gaming = ₹40,109 📕 Mid-range Compact System = ₹62,967 📕 Mid-range gaming = ₹67,979 📙 Ultra high-end = ₹2,14,747

BASIC RIG

| Intel Pentium G2020 | 3,950 |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Gigabyte GA-H61M-D2H | 3,736 |
| Corsair 2GB DDR3 1333MHz | 1,525 |
| Seagate Barracuda 500GB | 3,700 |
| AOC E2043FSK | 6,580 |
| None | 0 |
| Huntkey T-91 | 1,650 |
| Corsair VS450 | 2,359 |
| Logitech Z103 | 1,550 |
| Samsung 22x SATA DVD Writer | 950 |
| Amkette Ash Black (Bundle) | 550 |
| Amkette Ash Black (Bundle) | 0 |
| None | 0 |
| | 26,550 |
| | Gigabyte GA-H61M-D2H Corsair 2GB DDR3 1333MHz Seagate Barracuda 500GB AOC E2043FSK None Huntkey T-91 Corsair VS450 Logitech Z103 Samsung 22x SATA DVD Writer Amkette Ash Black (Bundle) Amkette Ash Black (Bundle) |

ENTRY-LEVEL GAMING

| Processor | AMD A10-5800K | 8,850 |
|---------------|-----------------------------|--------|
| Motherboard | ASUS F2A85-M-LE | 6,800 |
| RAM | G-skill F3-10600CL9S-4GBNT | 2,500 |
| HDD | Toshiba 1TB | 4,750 |
| Monitor | AOC I2251FWE IPS | 8,000 |
| Graphics Card | None | 0 |
| Cabinet | Huntkey T-91 | 1,650 |
| PSU | Corsair VS450 | 2,359 |
| Speaker | F&D F680 | 3,700 |
| Optical Drive | Samsung 22x SATA DVD Writer | 950 |
| Mouse | Amkette Ash Black (Bundle) | 0 |
| Keyboard | Amkette Ash Black (Bundle) | 550 |
| Sound Card | None | 0 |
| Total | | 40,109 |

MID-RANGE GAMING

| Processor | Intel Core i5-3470 | 13,550 |
|---------------|--|--------|
| Motherboard | Gigabyte GA-B75M-D3H | 4,734 |
| RAM | Kingston HyperX 8GB (KHX1600C9D3B1K2/8GX) | 4,935 |
| HDD | Toshiba 1TB | 4,750 |
| Monitor | BenQ G2420 HD | 10,500 |
| Graphics Card | ZOTAC GTX 650Ti Boost | 13,400 |
| Cabinet | Antec One - S3 | 3,650 |
| PSU | Corsair GS 600 | 5,360 |
| Speaker | F&D F680 | 3,700 |
| Optical Drive | Samsung 22x SATA DVD Writer | 950 |
| Mouse | Razer Abyssus (bundled) | 2,450 |
| Keyboard | Razer Abyssus (Bundled) | 0 |
| Sound Card | None | 0 |
| Total | | 67,979 |

HTPC

| Processor | AMD A6-5400K | 7,280 |
|---------------|---------------------------------------|--------|
| Motherboard | MSI FM2-A75MA-P33 | 4,540 |
| RAM | Kingston HyperX Blu DDR3 4 GB | 2,500 |
| HDD | Western Digital WD20EZRX 2TB | 6,500 |
| Monitor | None (your TV) | 0 |
| Graphics Card | None (HD6530D onboard) | 0 |
| Cabinet | Cooler Master Elite 120 Advanced | 2,977 |
| PSU | Cooler Master Thunder 450W | 2,600 |
| Speaker | None | 0 |
| Optical Drive | Samsung 22x SATA DVD Writer | 950 |
| Mouse | Microsoft Desktop 2000 wireless combo | 2,100 |
| Keyboard | Bundled | 0 |
| Sound Card | None | 0 |
| Total | | 29,447 |

MID-RANGE COMPACT SYSTEM

| Processor | Intel Core i5-3570K | 15,850 |
|---------------|---------------------------------------|--------|
| Motherboard | Asrock Z77E-ITX | 11,000 |
| RAM | Corsair Vengeance 8GB DDR3 1600 | 5,300 |
| HDD | Seagate Barracuda 2 TB | 6,890 |
| Monitor | None (Your TV) | 0 |
| Graphics Card | ASUS GTX 650 Ti Boost 2GB | 14,500 |
| Cabinet | Cooler Master Elite 120 Advanced | 2,977 |
| PSU | Cooler Master Thunder 500W | 3,400 |
| Speaker | None | 0 |
| Optical Drive | Samsung 22x SATA DVD Writer | 950 |
| Mouse | Microsoft Desktop 2000 wireless combo | 2,100 |
| Keyboard | Bundled | 0 |
| Sound Card | NA | 0 |
| Total | | 62,967 |

ULTRA HIGH-END GAMING

| Processor | Intel Core i7-4770K | 23,450 |
|---------------|---|----------|
| Motherboard | ASRock Z87 Extreme4 | 12,570 |
| RAM | Corsair Vengeance 8GB (2x4GB) DDR3 1600 | 6,067 |
| HDD | WD WD30EZRX 3TB + Corsair Neutron 120 GB | 16,700 |
| Monitor | BenQ XL2420T | 26,000 |
| Graphics Card | ZOTAC GeForce GTX 780 | 52,500 |
| Cabinet | Cooler Master HAF - XM | 10,000 |
| PSU | Cooler Master Real Power Pro 850W | 11,000 |
| Speaker | Logitech Z906 5.1 | 22,700 |
| Optical Drive | LG Blu-ray WH14NS40 RW | 7,560 |
| Mouse | Roccat Kone XTD | 4,200 |
| Keyboard | Corsair Vengeance K70 | 9,500 |
| Sound Card | ASUS Xonar Phoebus | 12,500 |
| Total | | 2,14,747 |





Politics and Math are enemies

Politics wrecks your ability to do Math! A new psychology paper outlines why our political passions can undermine reason http://dgit.in/17U16Rr

Suicidal HIV

Drexel University researchers are working on a microbicide called DAVEI which can prompt the HIV virus to kill itself http://dgit.in/1f7bJXz

SPEND SMART

This month we take a look at high-end smartphones and blu-ray players. All the top-notch entertainment that you'll need



| HIGH-END SMARTPHONES | | | | | | | |
|----------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------|--|----------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------|
| Brand | Model | Display Size (in inches) | SoC | RAM (in GB) | Storage (in GB) | OS | Price |
| Apple | iPhone 5 | 4 | Apple A6 dual core 1.3GHz + PowerVR SGX 543MP3 | 1 | 16 | iOS 7 | 43,999 |
| Apple | iPhone 5 | 4 | Apple A6 dual core 1.3GHz + PowerVR SGX 543MP3 | 1 | 32 | iOS 7 | 52,500 |
| Apple | iPhone 5 | 4 | Apple A6 dual core 1.3GHz + PowerVR SGX 543MP3 | 1 | 64 | iOS 7 | 59,500 |
| Apple | iPhone 4S | 3.5 | Apple A5 dual core 1GHz + PowerVR SGX543MP2 | 512MB | 16 | iOS 7 | 38,000 |
| BlackBerry | Q10 | 3.1 | TI OMAP 4470 + PowerVR SGX544 | 2 | 16 + microSD | BlackBerry 10.1 | 43,000 |
| BlackBerry | Z10 | 4.2 | Qualcomm MSM8960 Snapdragon dual core 1.5GHz + Adreno 225 | 2 | 16 + microSD | BlackBerry 10.1 | 40,500 |
| BlackBerry | Q5 | 3.1 | Qualcomm Snapdragon 4 dual core 1.2GHz | 2 | 8 + microSD | BlackBerry 10.1 | 25,000 |
| Google | Nexus 4 (by LG) | 4.7 | Qualcomm SnapDragon 8064 S4 Pro quad core 1.5GHz + Adreno 320 | 2 | 16 | Android 4.2 | 25,500 |
| HTC | One | 4.7 | Qualcomm APQ8064T Snapdragon 600 quad core 1.7GHz + Adreno 320 | 2 | 32 | Android 4.1.2 | 46,000 |
| HTC | One (dual-SIM) | 4.7 | Qualcomm APQ8064T Snapdragon 600 quad core 1.7GHz + Adreno 320 | 2 | 32 | Android 4.1.2 | 48,900 |
| HTC | Butterfly S | 5 | Qualcomm APQ8064T Snapdragon 600 quad core 1.9GHz + Adreno 320 | 2 | 32 | Android 4.1.2 | 53,500 |
| HTC | Butterfly | 5 | Qualcomm SnapDragon 8064 S4 Pro quad core 1.5GHz + Adreno 320 | 2 | 16 + microSD | Android 4.1.2 | 38,990 |
| HTC | One X+ | 4.7 | NVIDIA Tegra 3 AP37 quad core 1.7GHz | 1 | 32 | Android 4.1 | 26,999 |
| HTC | Desire 600 | 4.5 | Qualcomm MSM8625Q Snapdragon 200 quad core 1.2GHz + Adreno 203 | 1 | 8 + microSD | Android 4.1.2 | 25,500 |
| Lenovo | K900 | 5.5 | Intel Atom Z2580 dual core 2GHz + PowerVR SGX544 | 2 | 16 | Android 4.2 | 28,000 |
| LG | Optimus G Pro | 5.5 | Qualcomm APQ8064T Snapdragon 600 quad core 1.7GHz + Adreno 320 | 2 | 16 + microSD | Android 4.2 | 37,999 |
| LG | Optimus G | 4.7 | Qualcomm SnapDragon 8064 S4 Pro quad core 1.5GHz + Adreno 320 | 2 | 16 + microSD | Android 4.1 | 30,900 |
| Nokia | Lumia 925 | 4.5 | Qualcomm MSM8960 Snapdragon S4 Plus dual core 1.5GHz + Adreno 225 | 1 | 16 | Windows Phone 8 | 33,499 |
| Nokia | Lumia 920 | 4.5 | Qualcomm MSM8960 Snapdragon S4 Plus dual core 1.5GHz + Adreno 225 | 1 | 32 | Windows Phone 8 | 32,319 |
| Samsung | Galaxy S4 | 5 | Exynos 5 Octa 5410 Quad-core 1.6 GHz Cortex-A15 & quad-core 1.2 GHz Cortex-A7 | 2 | 16 + microSD | Android 4.2.2 | 35,500 |



Sea Otters clean ocean

Sea Otters indirectly help the environment by eating the crabs that eat orange sea slugs and shrimp-like isopods, both of which in turn protect the seagrass by grazing on algae

Draw on your iPhone cover The Erase Case comes with a special black marker

The Erase Case comes with a special black market that you can use to draw on the cover cleaning solution included. http://theerasecase.com/

Price Watch

| Brand | Model | Display Size (in inches) | SoC | RAM (in GB) | Storage (in GB) | OS | Price |
|---------|-----------------|-----------------------------|--|----------------|--------------------|------------------|--------|
| Samsung | Galaxy Note II | 5.5 | Exynos 4412 Quad 1.6GHz + Mali 400MP | 2 | 16 + microSD | Android 4.1.2 | 28,990 |
| Samsung | Galaxy SIII | 4.8 | Exynos 4412 Quad 1.4GHz + Mali 400MP | 2 | 16 + microSD | Android 4.1.2 | 26,900 |
| Samsung | Galaxy S4 Zoom | 4.3 | Pega-Dual +XMM6262 dual core 1.5GHz + Mali 400MP | 1.5 | 8 + microSD | Android 4.2.2 | 29,900 |
| Samsung | Galaxy Mega 6.3 | 6.3 | Qualcomm Snapdragon 400 dual core 1.7GHz + Adreno 305 | 1.5 | 8 + microSD | Android 4.2.2 | 29,990 |
| Samsung | Galaxy S4 Mini | 4.3 | Qualcomm MSM8930 Snapdragon 400 dual core 1.7GHz + Adreno 305 | 1.5 | 8 + microSD | Android 4.2.2 | 26,500 |
| Sony | Xperia Z Ultra | 6.4 | Qualcomm MSM8974 Snapdragon 800 quad core 2.2GHz + Adreno 330 | 2 | 16 + microSD | Android 4.2.2 | 43,500 |
| Sony | Xperia Z | 5 | Qualcomm Snapdragon APQ8064 S4 Pro quad core 1.5GHz + Adreno 320 | 2 | 16 + microSD | Android 4.2.2 | 31,900 |
| Sony | Xperia ZR | 4.5 | Qualcomm Snapdragon APQ8064 S4 Pro quad core 1.5GHz + Adreno 320 | 2 | 16 + microSD | Android 4.2.2 | 27,500 |
| Sony | Xperia SP | 4.6 | Qualcomm MSM8960T Snapdragon S4 Pro dual core 1.5GHz + Adreno 320 | 1 | 8 + microSD | Android 4.1 | 23,500 |

| | BLU-RAY PLAYERS | | | | | | | | |
|-----------|-----------------|----|----------|---------|---------------|------------------------------|-------|--------------------------|--------|
| Brand | Model | 3D | 2D -> 3D | DivX HD | 4K upscale | Ethernet for streaming | Wi-Fi | Smartphone Remote app | Price |
| Samsung | BD-F7500 | Y | N | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | 16,490 |
| Samsung | BD-E6500 | Y | N | Ν | Ν | Y | Y | Y | 16,490 |
| Samsung | BD-F6500 | Y | Ν | Υ | Ν | Y | Y | Υ | 11,990 |
| Samsung | BD-E5500 | Y | Ν | Y | Ν | Y | N | Υ | 11,490 |
| Samsung | BD-F5500 | Y | N | Y | N | Y | N | Y | 8,990 |
| Samsung | BD-E5300 | N | N | Y | N | Y | N | Y | 8490 |
| Samsung | BD-F5100 | N | N | Y | N | Y | N | N | 7,990 |
| Philips | BDP-5600 | Y | N | Y | N | Y | Y | Y | 10,290 |
| Philips | BDP-3480 | Y | N | Y | N | Y | N | Y | 7,890 |
| Philips | BDP-2180 | Y | N | Y | N | Y | N | Ν | 6,390 |
| Philips | BDP-2100 | Y | N | Y | Ν | Y | N | N | 5,800 |
| Sony | BDP-S4100 | Y | N | Ν | Ν | Y | N | N | 13,990 |
| Sony | BDP-S490 | Y | N | N | N | Y | N | N | 13,990 |
| Sony | BDP-S1100 | Y | N | N | N | Y | N | N | 6,590 |
| Sony | BDP-S190 | Ν | N | N | N | Y | N | N | 6,590 |
| Panasonic | DMP-BD220 | Y | Y | Y | N | Y | Y | Y | 12,000 |
| Panasonic | DMP-BD110 | Y | Y | Y | N | Y | N | Y | 11,000 |
| Panasonic | DMP-BD77 | N | N | Y | N | Y | N | N | 7,000 |
| Panasonic | DMP-BD75 | Ν | N | Y | N | Y | N | N | 7,000 |

Toolbox

Tips & Tricks Get your professional networking in shape with these LinkedIn tips. Also find out what more you can do with Office and Windows.

Workshop

Learn how to make Google your personal automation slave with Google Apps Scripting

Dated configs, over-heating laptops and impossible overclocking...

Digit's tireless reviewers do their best to help out their ailing readers in times of need. How do you overclock a laptop? What do you do with a finicky Wi-Fi setup and when do you know if your device is faulty? We're here to help.

💽 Set top box USB trouble

I am regular reader of Digit Magazine, I have the following problem: My TV Cable operator has provided the Aspire 5000 series set top box. The set top box has an inbuilt USB port. The remote of the settop box shows that the device is capable of recording content. But when I insert a pen drive or a portable external hard drive, the set top box doesn't detect it. The manual of the set-top box says that you must use USB 2.0 drives and the power it intakes should be less than 0.5A. Kindly let me know which pen drives use power less than 0.5A.

Noel Castelino

A This is one of the most common problems arising in set-top-boxes. Most of them advertise that they support recording through a USB device but there are only a few good ones in the market that properly do so. Some of these set-top-boxes do work nicely, but sometimes an issue arises due to the cable operator itself. In your case if you are connecting a pen drive and are not able to detect it through the set-top-box, then there might be something wrong with the set-top-box itself because all regular pen drives require less power than 500mA or 0.5A as USB 2.0 ports have a standard power output of 0.5A per port unless otherwise specified. As for connecting an external hard drive to the set-top-box, it might not work because some external hard drives require more juice to get powered on.

Overclocking a laptop

Hi guys, after reading your article on overclocking in the April issue, I tried overclocking my Dell Latitude E5500 laptop but I am unable to do so. What is the reason for it? My laptop specifications are as follows:

- Intel Core 2 Duo 2.53GHz;
- 2 GB DDR2 800MHz RAM;
- Intel GM45 chipset;
- Windows 7;
 Please help

Surabhit Gupta

🔊 Most laptops are designed in such a way that they can't be overclocked as their design does not allow for more heat dissipation than what it was designed to handle using the stock cooler. Some companies actually underclock the CPU to certain level in order to prevent overheating. Because of this it's not adviseable to even try overclocking your laptop. Also, most laptops have locked multipliers and that means that it's impossible to overclock them by traditional means. Also, given your configuration, if you somehow find a way to actually overclock your device and you don't end up burning a component or two, the performance gains will be marginal to say the least. There are some high end gaming grade laptops available

in the market which may provide some overclocking headroom, but even for these it's not really recommended. Also remember that you void your warranty when you overclock. If you get caught that is.

💽 WiFi woes

Hello, there's a problem in my PC. I have a WiFi connection which works fine with all my devices and is very fast. But, after I replaced the hard disk drive on my PC. The WiFi signal is low and the internet speed is very less. At the same time the WiFi signal on all other devices I use is fast and the signal strength is full. Below are my PC specs:

- Intel Core Duo T500 CPU @ 2.1GHz;
- 2038 MB RAM:
- Hardisk 500 GB:
- Windows 7 starter 32-bit

S.Balarishi

There is no direct relation between replacing a hard drive and the WiFi speed getting choppy unless something went wrong during the process. Perform the following checks to determine where the problem actually lies in your system:

- Since you've recently replaced your hard drive, make sure that you didn't disturb any other component in your system while installation, by checking their connections.
- Next, uninstall your network drivers, restart your PC and reinstall them again. Sometimes internal issues do arise during installation of drivers, making the installed components



Use a brush or an ear-pick to clean inside the laptop



In-flight games Finally, at long last, the FAA seems to be close to a ruling that will allow the use of electronic in-flight http://dgit.in/18mkaZo

Pilotless warfare The most awesome remote-control aircarft in the

The most awesome remote-control aircarft in th world is now this full-fledged F-16 fighter plane. http://dgit.in/18Ufuq3

behave erratically. Re-installing drivers may fix the issue.

- If you're still facing the same problem, check if you have any system downloads running in the background, such as Windows updates for example, or some other software which may be updating itself.
- If you have an external antenna in your PC for the WiFi connection, make sure the antenna is connected properly. After performing all of the above, if you're still having the

same trouble, call your ISP and tell them to send in a guy to help fix this issue. If it still doesn't work out then write back to us again with details on the steps you did and we'll try to help.

💽 Noisy, overheating laptop

I own an HP 630 Notebook with the following configuration:

- Processor- Intel Core i3 370M @2.40Ghz;
- RAM 2GB DDR3;
- HDD 500 GB;
- Graphics– Intel HD Graphics;

I have been using it for over two years now, but from the past few days I am experiencing some heating issues with it. Within a usage of hardly 15 minutes, it heats up to such a level as if it's being used continuously for more than three hours or so. The internal fan keeps on rotating at very high RPMs and makes a lot of sound which is very irritating. I don't use the laptop for gaming or watching movies, but only some basic tasks like word processing, internet surfing etc. What is the possible reason for this overheating? What steps should I take to stop this? Please advice me soon as I am very much worried about my laptop. *Prateek Mathur*

Laptop overheating is one of the most common problems that arise after prolonged usage of any laptop. The main cause of overheating is usually dust that blocks the intake grills or exhaust ports. Dust gets inside the laptop and clogs the fan, because of which the fan starts making noises. Heat builds up inside the laptop and to counter this, the fan starts spinning much faster and generates even more noise. Sometimes, the thermal paste between the heatsink and the CPU dries up thereby directly increasing the internal temperatures.

If your laptop is still under warranty, then have it serviced through the respective service centre. If not, you'll have to clean the laptop from the inside yourself. Consult your laptop's user manual and open up the laptop to clean the heatsink and fans inside. Take a dry and soft piece of cloth to clean components inside. Use a small paint brush to clean areas that are very small and are hard to reach using a cloth. You can also use a readily available can of compressed air and blow it on dusty areas to quickly get rid of dust. Next, clean the residue of the old, dried-up thermal paste by using a swab of cotton slightly dipped in Isopropyl alcohol and wipe it off. Apply a new coat of thermal paste to the CPU and reinstall the heatsink. Once you're done, your laptop shouldn't be overheating any more.

Also, investing in a laptop cooler should also help. Note that if you're still having over-heating issues despite checking

all of the above, it's possible that you have a faulty component somewhere and your laptop will need a thorough check-up from a professional service centre.

💽 Low on RAM

My PC configuration is as follows:

- Processor Intel Dual Core 1.8GHz;
- Motherboard Gigabyte 945;
- Seagate 160GB HDD;
- RAM Dynet 1GB DDR3;
- PSU 450 Watts.

When I open multiple tabs in Google Chrome or when I run multiple applications together, the RAM usage goes to 95% and PC slows down. Please let me know if I need to upgrade my pc. *Ninad m.a*

A Yes, you are having a shortage of RAM on your PC. Since your PC config is very dated, what you really need is a complete system overhaul. That said, just bumping up your RAM to 2GB or 4GB should drastically improve your computing experience. An entry-level GPU such as the GTX620 will also do wonders for your system.



LINKEDIN

LinkedIn is another one of those social media giants that has taken the web world by storm. It provides an exclusive platform for users to interact with each other in a professional environment and showcase their achievements, talents and interests. As such it's an ideal forum for job seekers and head hunters. It also serves as a specialised profile building platform and enables users to



Connecting professionally is what it's all about

maintain multiple levels of connections. Off late there've been some amazing developments from LinkedIn giving users access to a multitude of features. This Tips & Tricks section is not a tutorial teaching you how to build a strong LinkedIn profile but it will guide you on how to harness LinkedIn's technical platform to get the best out of it. Follow these nifty tricks and cheats for mastering LinkedIn.

SEO your profile

The fact that you're a LinkedIn user means that you're out there to market yourself and your skills. As such you need to make your profile easier to find when searched for using a search engine. A useful tip is to include a certain keyword throughout your profile. Make sure that this keyword appears in your endorsements and recommendations as well. Once done, you can check and rate your profile against others with similar keyword by doing a search by people. This tip is hardly a LinkedIn-

| VIEW STATES | |
|--|--|
| LinkedIn49 | |
| MS Office Add-ins51 | |
| Windows 8's bundled apps53 | |
| 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.

specific hack but is extremely useful and powerful.

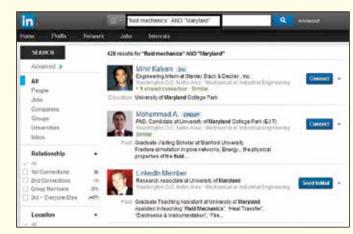
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Use Boolean search

The LinkedIn search bar has awesome support for Boolean search, which means that you can execute complex searches by combining Boolean operators (terms such as AND, OR, NOT). For example, if you want to search for a software engineer or architect you can search for 'software AND Engineer OR Architect' by combining the AND and OR Boolean operators. For exact matches, use quotation marks on either side of specific terms and use the NOT operator to exclude certain terms. E.g. "subject matter expert" NOT "technical writer". This sort of search query allowance lets you look for extremely specific profiles or a largely generalised database of profiles by a smart combination of Boolean operators.

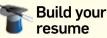
Reorder and rearrange headers

Don't like the way your profile headers are arranged? Reorder them. Simply go to the Profile >



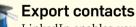
Optimise your profile to get pulled up in search results

Edit Profile and move your mouse pointer to the double-sided arrow at the extreme right of each header. Click and drag to rearrange the positions of the headers.



Linked in has a really nice built-in Resume Builder tool which can turn your profile into a resume that you can print, store and share as a .pdf file. To export your LinkedIn profile as a resume, go to http://resume.linkedinlabs.com/ and click on the "Create a new resume now" button. Grant access to the Resume Builder application. You'll then be redirected to a page where your resume will be exported to a document type sheet. You can choose between various resume formats. After zeroing in on the desired format and content, click on the PDF/ print option located at the end of the menu just above the sample document to save and download the resume as a .pdf file.

You're probably already aware of a similar feature within your LinkedIn profile where you also have the option of a quick .pdf download of your profile. However, that's a plain Jane version compared to the template options you'll get with Resume Builder.



LinkedIn enables you to have multiple levels of connections. As such it gets really important to organise contacts. You can export LinkedIn contacts to another contact or people management system. To do this, go to Network > Contacts > My Connections. Then scroll down and click on the bottom right option of Export connections. There's an option to export contacts either as a .csv or .vcf file.

Remove Contacts tab

Deleting connections is not a really smooth procedure in LinkedIn. The remove connection page simply displays a list of contacts without pictures. For users with a large number of contacts it may become cumbersome to identify contacts without additional information. But thanks to a neat Greasemonkey script deleting connections becomes simple. Follow the instructions for installation at http://dgit.in/189ubY2 and install the plug-in from http:// dgit.in/189usdD to enable a 'Remove Contact' link next to each profile.

Treate map virtualisation

Although this tip doesn't really utilise a LinkedIn-based service it relies on an official application called InMaps developed by LinkedIn employees for an experimental service (like Resume Builder) called LinkedIn Labs. InMaps is a beautiful tool that essentially creates a graph network linking together all your contacts with you and each other. It's a stunning visualisation tool and you can easily zoom in on the map and see specific contacts and their connections. Clicking on a specific dot on the map will show the respective contact's connection in the map and his/her details are displayed in the pane to the right. This is a handy tool when it comes to viewing connections of specific con-



Explore the demographics tab for a deeper insight into the group

tacts and building databases. You can easily share the map with other contacts also. To use the service go to http://inmaps.linkedinlabs.com/



an utterly useless thing to do but it is actually quite handy if you're tailing a particular profile for a job or otherwise. A little known feature in LinkedIn allows you to save upto three searches and get email notifications if there are new profiles similar to the ones in your search query list. Call it keeping an eve on the competiton or whatever but it quite useful if you happen to be in HR. Simply type your search query in the search toolbar at the top and click on the Save option. Let's suppose you're looking for a mechanical engineering student who joined graduate school at MIT, you can simply type "Mechanical" AND "graduate" AND "MIT" in the search bar and save that search query.

LinkedIn will send you alerts weekly or monthly regarding additions to the list.

Customise your LinkedIn profile URL and other profile settings

The official profile URL provided by LinkedIn hardly catches one's eye. The URL has a set of confusing and unrelated numbers at the end and it would be really great if a user could obtain a cleaner and crisper URL instead. Fortunately you can. If you're signed in at LinkedIn go to http://dgit.in/16iAggu. In the tab titled 'Your Public Profile URL' click on 'Customise your public profile URL'. Enter a suitable URL in the box that appears and vou're set.

The same page is quite handy for changing the way your profile appears when searched for. You can choose the kind of information to display when googled! The page also provides a nifty option of creating a profile badge to display and promote your LinkedIn profile on other public forums associated with you. Choose from a variety of profile badge options by clicking on the "Create a profile badge" under the Profile Badges section.



This option gives you an idea of the group dynamics in general which includes number of group members, activity and growth. You can view comprehensive infographics that cover demographic information, activity (discussions, jobs posted, comments and promotions) over a period of time and growth in number of members. This is quite an amazing feature if you're wondering whether the group is the right match for you given your career aspirations. For example, if you're at entrylevel and the demographics show that a majority of the group members are at a senior level, this may not be the group for you yet. To access it go to the specific page under investigation. In the tab containing the name of the group click the 'i' button towards the extreme right. Click on 'Group statistics' in the menu box that appears.



This tip is regarding another brilliant LinkedIn application

Additional Validity of **3 Months*** on purchase of select Quick Heal products

Quick Heal Monsoon

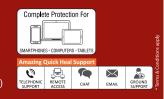
Offer

4 Months*

Additional Validity* on Quick Heal Renewals *Offer valid from 5th August to 31st October 2013 on Select Quick Heal Product For more details visit: www.quickheal.com/offer or Call 1800 209 1500 (Toll Free)

Renew Your Existing Quick Heal License before 31st October 2013 & Get

Extra 4 Months Validity Absolutely Free!*



called Company Buzz. This application helps track what people are saying about you, your company or product via microblogging on Twitter. That's not all. You can also see a timevarying trend to track information over time, and modify search queries to catch Twitter trends. To install this application go to http://dgit.in/185HpXz. Once added, you can type in search queries in the search toolbar, click on the "Follow Topic" tab that appears on the upper-left side of the page and view instant Twitter feeds.



Developers at LinkedIn have come up with some really fancy applications and plug-ins to act as useful value additions. Go to https://developer.linkedin.com/ plugins to see an array of plugin options that you can install. Some of the cool member-based plug-ins let you embed a profile summary card on your personalised webpage or simply a neat LinkedIn logo that shows your profile summary card on hover.

Sync LinkedIn with Twitter

There are quite a few users who are very active in cyberspace including in the Twitter blogosphere and the LinkedIn network. If you're one of them, you might want to share your LinkedIn status updates on your Twitter profile. To do this, simply post the update in the update box and click on the 'Share With' box below. Choose 'Public + Twitter' from the dropdown menu and press Share to post the update simultaneously on your LinkedIn and Twitter profile.

MS OFFICE ADD-INS

So now with Microsoft calling all the extensions of Office

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Xobni for outlook gives you details of each contact in one pane

2013 'apps' instead of 'addins', you might be wondering what the difference actually is. Well, even though an add-in (or add-on) extends a software's functionality, and most apps can work by themselves; in this context, they're as essentially the same because the apps have little relevance outside the suite anyway.

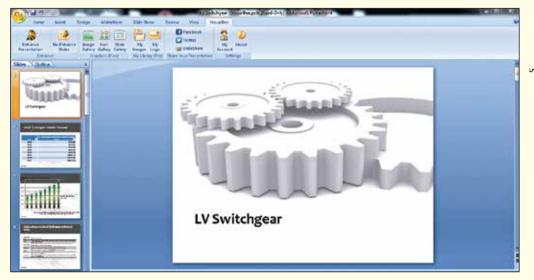
This Tips & Tricks section focuses on some of the few addins that definitely improve your MS Office experience.

But first up, you'll need to activate the add-ins. For this, all you need to do is download the .exe file from the respective

links (that we've provided here) and then directly install them. After the installation is complete, the add-in works seamlessly with MS Office, and all you need to do is go to (Word/ Excel/PowerPoint) Options > Add-ins. You should be able to manage your add-ins from here. This works for versions till Office 2010. For MS Office 2013, however, after you install the app, by just adding it from the respective sites - just go to Insert > Apps and doubleclick the app to activate it. So here's a list of some musthave add-ins/apps for your MS Office suite.

Enhance Outlook with Xobni

Xobni derives its name from the reverse spelling of 'inbox', and its creators claim that it was created for exactly that reason - to take back their inbox. It's an amazing free add-in that helps you boost the functionality of Outlook (2003/2007/2010). It makes Outlook more powerful in various ways by helping you organize, search and maintain vour contacts and their info all under one pane in Outlook. Xobni also integrates seamlessly with social networks such as Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn. Thus, when reading mail or just scrolling through your Outlook contacts in the Xobni pane you'll be to see info related to the contact - such as their photo and details such as title, company info, etc - as well as their updates on the various social networks. It indexes your mail making it way faster and more effective than the built-in search that Outlook provides. It also enables you to add more gadgets to help integrate services such as Evernote, Dropbox and Skype, making Xobni a must have add-in for your Outlook. Link: http://dgit.in/16Hda8Y



Lucidcharts for Word in action

Create stunning visuals with Lucidchart for Word

This tool lets you design flowcharts, mind maps, organizational charts etc. within Word 2013. Very powerful, easy to use and allowing you to collaborate with an unlimited number of other users, this diagramming software will let you export your diagram to social media sites, thus saving you the time to actually download it and distribute it manually. Available on all major platforms, this add-in is a must have.

Link: http://dgit.in/16EHVLI

Write like a Sir with Merriam Webster Dictionary

One of the most respected names in the dictionary business gives vou a very necessary add-in (for Excel 2013 and Word 2013) that lets you access its entire dictionary database with one click. Just select a word in the document that you're reading or writing and right-click to view not only its definition, but also its syllables, accents and correct usage examples. It will also enhance MS Word tools such as spelling and grammar checker, and thesaurus. This is a very useful extension for all students, and just about anyone with the slightest inclination towards becoming a better English writer.

Link: http://dgit.in/19goaJr

Spruce up your presentations with VisualBee

If you've gotten bored with how monotonous your PowerPoint presentations look, then look no further than VisualBee for the 2007 and 2010 versions. You no longer need to manually go to different sites to download and install the theme of your choosing. VisualBee contains more than 15,000 presentation design icons and more than 300

style options. Each style provides a different design in terms of background, types of images, colour combinations etc., even pertaining to particular fields such as education, finance, sports etc. It actually analyses the content of the slide deck, and tries to enhance the entire presentation with the help of the thousands of images present in its visual bank. All, with just a single click. There are minor issues like the fact that you need internet connection to be able to use it, and the images might take some time to load, but it's worth it for anyone who makes PowerPoint presentations on a regular basis.

Link: http://dgit.in/14j0aFR

Sync Outlook using CompanionLink

Outlook just doesn't sync with Google, and Google doesn't sync with Outlook. If you use both, MS Outlook and Gmail or Google Calendar, you know how frustrating it can be that these absolutely necessary email services refuse to communicate with each other. To add to the frustration, if you have an Android phone, the contacts also don't sync with your Outlook contacts. That's where CompanionLink for Outlook comes to the rescue and solves both the problems. It syncs Outlook (2003, 2007, 2010, 2013), Gmail and Google Calendar automatically, so that we don't need to repeatedly enter the same information into all our devices, or have clashes between our calendars and contacts. Once you've synced your Android and your Google data, your Outlook data is automatically synced with your Android phone as well. There's a 14-day trial post which you can either buy the full license or subscribe for three months. Though the \$50 price tag for the one-time license might seem daunting, CompanionLink is another

worthy add-in as it saves us from performing an escapable monotonous task. Link: http://dgit.in/17LrE7y

Organise your documents with

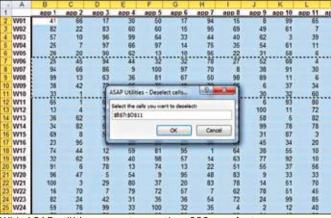
More Add-in More Add-in is an absolute beauty and makes you wonder why Microsoft didn't add this feature in MS Office in the first place. So what does this add-in do? It gives you a collapse and expand feature in Word 2003, 2007, 2010, 2013. Sounds trivial right? But, only when you start using it do you realise the value of this particular feature. Especially helpful when you work with long documents containing blobs of data; it helps you reduce the clutter in your documents, allowing you to access the paragraph of text you want, when you want it - easily letting you hide the data that you don't want to see at the moment. You

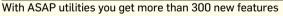
don't need to combine or merge anymore; all you need to do is click on the triangle beside the block of text that you want to collapse/show. This tool also lets you make collapsible lists – thus allowing you to have a collapsible for each and every member on the list – thus making it extremely concise, clutter-free and organised. You're allowed 10 free uses of More Add-in after which you can buy the licensed copy for \$20.

Link: http://dgit.in/15ERzON



Opening multiple documents in Office is usually a pain, but Office Tab makes it a much smoother experience. It gives the MS Office suite (2003, 2007, 2010) including Word, Excel and PowerPoint a tabbed interface, just like your browser. So with each document opened in its own tab, it's much easier to





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|----|-----|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------|--------|---|
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| 2 | W01 | 41 | 66 | 17 | 30 | 50 | 17 | 94 | 15 | 8 | 99 | 65 | |
| 3 | W02 | 82 | 22 | 83 | 60 | 60 | 15 | 95 | 69 | 49 | 61 | 7 | |
| 4 | W03 | 57 | 10 | 96 | 99 | 64 | 33 | 44 | 40 | 62 | 3 | 39 | |
| 5. | W04 | 25 | 7 | 97 | 66 | 97 | 14 | 75 | 35 | . 54 | 61 | 11 | |
| 6 | W05 | 20 | 20 | 90 | 62 | 13 | 10 | 95 | 22 | 31 | 58 | 6 | |
| 7 | W06 | 25 | 45 | 94 | 44 | 32 | 32 | 78 | 27 | 52 | 68 | - 4 | |
| 8 | W07 | 94 | 66 | 86 | 9 | 100 | 97 | 70 | 8 | 38 | 91 | 30 | |
| 9 | W08 | 99 | 13 | 63 | 36 | 81 | 67 | 50 | 98 | 89 | 11 | 6 | |
| 10 | W09 | 38 | 42 | 72 | 66 | 76 | 49 | 79 | 66 | 6 | 37 | 34 | |
| 11 | W10 | 33 | 1 | 18 | 64 | 17 | 98 | 58 | 11 | 30 | 32 | 60 | |
| 12 | W11 | 65 | 1 | 65 | 7 | 85 | 55 | 62 | 29 | 6 | 93 | 80 | |
| 13 | W12 | 12 | 4 | 16 | 31 | 81 | .81 | 28 | 10 | 100 | 11 | 72 | |
| 14 | W13 | 36 | 62 | 13 | 7 | 66 | 10 | 96 | 90 | 58 | . 5 | 82 | |
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| 18 | W17 | 74 | 44 | 12 | 59 | 81 | 95 | 1 | 64 | 38 | 55 | 10 | |
| 19 | W18 | 32 | 62 | 19 | 40 | 98 | 57 | 14 | 63 | 77 | 92 | 10 | |
| 20 | W19 | 91 | 6 | 78 | 13 | 74 | 13 | 22 | 51 | 55 | 37 | 56 | |
| 21 | W20 | - 96 | 47 | 5 | 54 | 9 | 95 | 48 | 83 | 9 | 33 | 33 | |
| 22 | W21 | 100 | 3 | 29 | 80 | 37 | 20 | 83 | 78 | 14 | 51 | 70 | |
| 23 | W22 | 16 | 70 | 7 | 79 | 72 | 57 | 7 | 62 | 78 | 51 | 45 | |
| 24 | W23 | 82 | 24 | 42 | 31 | 35 | 36 | 54 | 72 | 24 | 99 | 85 | |
| 25 | W24 | 58 | 76 | 99 | 33 | 100 | 32 | 35 | 4 | 2 | 12 | 40 | |

Deselect a few cells from a selection using ASAP utilities



Some of the features of More Add-in

navigate between your different documents. Link: http://dgit.in/19idIQe

Transferring charts is a piece of pie with EzPaste

Copying charts or tables from your Excel sheet to your other docs is a huge task, especially if vou have a lot of data to transfer. EzPaste is a productivity tool that enables exactly this with great ease in MS Office suite (2003, 2007, 2010). You can copy hundreds of charts or tables from Excel to PowerPoint/ Word/HTML/PDF, all with one click. EzPaste gives you control over what to paste, and in which order along with some added visual effects that you can apply to the pasted objects as well. All in all, it's a must-have add-in. Link: http://dgit.in/15ES5wf



ASAP Utilities is one of the most popular add-ins for Excel (2003, 2007, 2010, 2013), and for good reason. Despite Excel being extremely feature-rich, there are some options in the spreadsheet that go missing when you need them the most. Luckily, ASAP Utilities comes to the rescue. Now, ASAP Utilities provides the user with not one or two, but over 3OO additional features that make working with Excel a walk in the park. Ever since it was brought out in 1999, it has continuously evolved to provide different tools to make the Excel experience better. The interface is also extremely familiar to Excel users, and you'll get down to using the features in no time. Some of ASAP Utilities' most popular tools include:

- Deselection of cells in your selection
- Applying of formula to selected range
- Selection of cells based on content, formatting and more
- Advanced sorting sort by more than just values
- Export of worksheets as separate files
- Protection of multiple sheets at once

Though you may be initially

overwhelmed by the number of features, taking a few minutes to go through everything will work wonders. You can also add the tools that work for you best to your Favourites menu, and assign them your own shortcuts for quick access. No wonder, the frequent ASAP Utilities user can't live without the application – it provides an easy-to-use interface that is way more efficient than plain ol' Excel. Link: http://dgit.in/1gC508i

Generate that project report easily with Maths and Chemistry add-ins for Word

Students and teachers are going to be extremely thankful for these MS Word (2007/2010) add-ins. The Math add-in provides you with an extensive collection of mathematical symbols and structures to display mathematical expressions clearly, apart from enabling you to perform mathematical calculations and create plot graphs (both 2-D and 3-D).

The Chemistry add-in similarly allows you to work with chemical symbols and data sources within the familiar Microsoft Word environment. You can display chemical information in various ways, including the likes of 2-D chemical structures. An extremely useful tool that could be used by students of all ages – right from high school to PhD students. Download Links: Math: http://dgit.in/18BW1dF Chemistry: http://dgit.in/1erg8wA

WINDOWS 8'S BUNDLED APPS

Odds are that if you purchase a new laptop it will be shipped with the brand new version of Windows 8. Old school users complain about the new Windows but the fact is that Windows 8 comes with a really beautiful interface and some amazing applications. What makes this version of Windows so different from its previous versions is the presence of applications in the form of tiles. It's quite a neat feature. The applications are essentially software which appear as rectangular tiles rather than boring icons. Now, some of these tiles are live and provide updates in real time without you having to click on them. While Microsoft stocks your OS with some nifty native apps, there's a whole store of third-party applications vou can access but you really ought to give the pre-installed apps a chance. In this feature, we provide you with some tips and tricks to get the best out of the few native apps in Windows 8.

1. SkyDrive

If you haven't hopped on to the cloud storage bandwagon yet you've probably been living off the grid for quite some time. SkyDrive is Microsoft's cloudbased storage and syncing service, and in direct competition to the likes of Dropbox and Google Drive. Besides the traditional syncing and sharing options and the extremely likeable design the following are a few of the SkyDrive app's lesser known useful features.



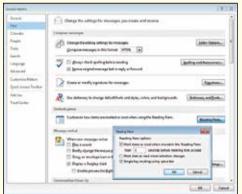
This great option is glaringly absent from most other cloud-

| SkyDriver | SkyDrive |
|------------------|-----------------------------|
| Local hard drive | Documents |
| Attachments | Pictures |
| My Shared Files | 🗂 Public |
| | lectures.rar |
| 습 Favorites | RONAK GUPTA-CV(23 Aug).docx |
| | RONAK GUPTA-CV(23 Aug).pdf |
| | RONAK GUPTA-CV(8 Sep).docx |
| | RONAK GUPTA-CV(8 Sep).pdf |
| | RONAK GUPTA-CV.pdf |

Selectively share files with others in SkyDrive

Digit | October 2013

based services. Many users prefer using their desktops as their primary work space, and all important and urgent documents are mostly pasted there. So backing up your desktop on the cloud seems like a viable option. To do this, simply go to the Users folder under C drive where Windows is currently installed. Then right-click on Desktop, go to Properties > Location. In the



Never miss out on an unread email again

window that appears, replace the desktop location in the filled in field with the location of your SkyDrive folder and you're good to go.

Sync folders the easy way

There are some really awesome add-ons that enable you to easily sync folders with SkyDrive without manually transferring the folder. The Sky ShellEx extension, which is available in various compatible versions, helps you do just that. On installing the above mentioned extension from http://ssx.codeplex.com/ you'll be able to sync any folder on your system by simply accessing an option called 'Sync to SkyDrive' in the menu that comes up after right-clicking on the folder name. All files in this folder will then be automatically backed up on the cloud. Isn't this a neat way to sync a folder? Syncing can be stopped by a "Stop Sync to SkyDrive" option in the rightclick menu.

Add SkyDrive support on Gmail

It goes without saying that Gmail is the most popular email client. And since it's a Google product there's obvious support for Google Drive. Sky-Drive support can be enabled using a third-party application called Attachments.me. Download the extension avail-

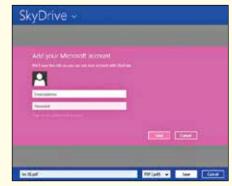
> able for Chrome from the Web Store at http:// dgit.in/18ygPIK

Grant necessary permission to the thirdparty app and continue installation, during which you'll be required to sign in to your Gmail and SkyDrive accounts. Once

this process is done, you'll be able to attach files from your SkyDrive account directly into your Gmail interface. You'll also be able to direct incoming mail attachments to your SkyDrive.

2. Outlook

Outlook provides an easy and much ignored way of keeping track of incoming mail, calendar and contacts. In this section, we share with you a few tricks that only the select few know and it should help you get the best of Outlook 2013 on Windows 8.



Save downloads directly to your Skydrive

Link with social media accounts

You can easily sync your Facebook and LinkedIn accounts to your People module in Outlook. Simply go to File > Info > Account Settings > Social Network Accounts, select the required social media service, provide the account details and grant Outlook permission to access your accounts.

Change what 'Read mail' means

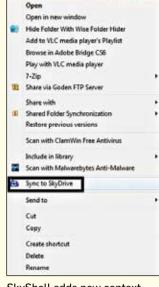
Mail clients generally mark read and unread mails differently. A 'read' mail usually means a mail that has been clicked, or even been given a passing glance. This way you can miss out on some vital information and seeing the mail as read, not come back to it later. You can change the way Outlook marks mail as read by going to File > Options > Mail > Reading Pane. Now check the box titled 'Mark items as read when in Reading Pane'. Change the number of seconds in the 'Wait n seconds before marking item as read' box below. Now Outlook will wait for those many seconds for the mail to be in the reading pane before marking it as read.



Use the Favorite option

If you have multiple email accounts it might be cumbersome to navigate through different folders. In such a case,

> adding folders as favorites simplifies the process of reading your mail. Go to View > Folder Pane and enable 'Favorites'. Add any folder to the Favorites by rightclicking the folder pane and choosing the option of "Show in Favorites."



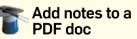
SkyShell adds new context menu options

3. Reader app

Reader app in Windows 8 comes as a native app. While it's not as powerful as your traditional Adobe Reader or Foxit, it serves its purpose and is extremely user-friendly. It largely serves its purpose as a utility app for reading documents.



Most applications on Windows 8 will come with integrated SkyDrive support as does the Reader app. You can save the current document to the cloud storage option by right-clicking. Then Save > Give filename > Select SkyDrive (as save location) > Sign in on SkyDrive > Save. After successfully logging in to SkyDrive, click 'save' once again to back up the file on the cloud.



While this is hardly an innovative feature in a reader, the fact that it's built in for a lightweight native app is quite impressive. To take down notes, highlight the text you want to use in your note. Then right-click and click on 'Add a Note'. The note will be saved and a red symbol will be placed to signify addition of a note.





Amazon's set-top box Amazon is approaching game developers for providing content on their upcoming set-top box http://dgit.in/lakoAiW

Cookies are history Google is reportedly working on a new technology to track user's browsing habits http://dgit.in/18mLLYM

Scripting with Google Apps Script

Learn how to make Google your personal automation slave

Ashesh Lal readersletters@thinkdigit.com

ow would you like to 'do more with Google'? Would you like to send customized e-mails, schedule conferences, build web apps and automate tasks without having to download another software or client for it? If yes, then simply increase the power of your favorite Google apps - like Calendar, Docs, Drive, Gmail, and Sheets with Google Apps Script. Apps Script runs on a JavaScript platform, entirely on cloud which essentially means that the programmer just needs a web browser and an active internet connection to be able to build and run programs without any other hardware requirements.

Prerequisites

For a developer with a basic grasp on using user inputs as objects, the possibilities are endless. But if you aren't well acquainted with any ECMAScript based language such as C or Java, you should start there. If you're new to JavaScript, MDN's JavaScript wiki has a lot of information. Apart from knowledge in JavaScript, a supported browser and a Google account or Google Apps account are essential.

Getting Started

Surely you must know by now, the indispensability of Google's products (including of course the search engine) -The functions defined in Apps Script have the power to utilize any of Google's APIs such as the Maps API to compute distance and the Calendar API to schedule events. As JavaScript is a web-based language, it is

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Create a spreadsheet for your convertor

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| | A | B | |
| 1 | Rupee Value (to be converted) | 45 | |
| 2 | Current Exchange Rate | 0.0157816 | |
| 3 | USD Value | | |
| 4 | | | |

The exchange rate is pulled from Google

type-insensitive and does not demand the type of the return value as C or Java would. However, good practices such as writing the function name in camel-case, using 'var' to declare variables, ending each statement with a semi-colon and returning a value even if it is null are essential in the opensource community to be able to share your work and maintain a standard.

There are a variety of scripts available for web apps, Google site gadgets, etc. but a good place to start would definitely be Spreadsheet Custom Functions. A Custom function generally looks something like Fig.1

Follow the steps given below to start scripting with Google Apps Script:

- 1. Open Google Docs
- $2. \ \ Create New \ {\ \ } Spreadsheet.$
- 3. Go to Tools -> Script Editor
- 4. Code the functions using JavaScript in the text-editor provided.
- 5. Save your work.

Using a custom function in a Spreadsheet is very similar to using built-in Spreadsheet formulas and functions which can be found over at http://goo.gl/hMYwWE . Just by using the syntax of =customFunctionName(cell_range), you can insert values in your spreadsheet. If you instead get the error message "#NAME?" in the cell then the spreadsheet cannot find the function.

Custom functions can read data from the current Spreadsheet and can call anonymous services such as SOAP, UrlFetch and Google Translate, which do not require user credentials to run. However, custom functions are not permitted to access user-specific services. A user-specific service is a service that is tied to a particular user and may access private data, such as Google Calendar, or may act as the user, performing tasks such as sending email.

| <pre>function customFunctionName(arg1, arg2,, argN) { // The code for your custom function goes here</pre> |
|--|
| // The value you return here will be displayed in the cell in the Spreadsheet // in which the custom function is entered |
| return someValue; |

Fig.1 What a custom function looks like

ASUS and Acer to merge? A chinese newspaper has reported that

A chinese newspaper has reported that the two companies are in talks over a possible merger



iPhone 5S and 5C taken apart

iFixit has done it again and has disassembled the iPhone 5S and the iPhone 5C in its new teardown **http://dgit.in/1akr2G9**

Workshop

Quick-Tutorial

To get you started, here is a quick tutorial on how to use custom functions to convert Rupees to Dollars using real-time conversion rates.

Method-1 [Using the inbuilt Spreadsheet Functions]

- 1. Create a new Spreadsheet via Google Drive.
- 2. Give the Spreadsheet a name.
- Call the inbuilt currency exchange rate function using the syntax '= GoogleFinance("CURRENCY:INRUSD")' This gives the current exchange rate.
- 4. Use the value generated and multiply it with the Rupee value that needs to be converted as =cell_idl*cell_id2 cell_id1 will be the id of the cell where the query to GoogleFinance() is made and cell_id2 will be the id of the cell where the Rupee value to be converted is inserted.
- 5. Your basic currency converter is ready. However, the results by this method are not always correct.

Method-2 [Using the script editor]

- 1. Create a new Spreadsheet via Google Docs and give it a name.
- 2. Go to Tools -> Script Editor
- 3. Select Blank Project. A text editor with a file called Code.gs will open.
- 4. Since the Google Finance API at https://developers.google.com/ finance/ is deprecated. Our first job is to find the source for the real-time conversion rates.
- 5. Go to www.openexchangerates.org and create a free account at https:// openexchangerates.org/signup/free to proceed further. The documentation of this API can be found at https:// openexchangerates.org/documentation . This is the only open-source API available and allows 1000 hits per month.
- 6. You will receive your app id at the e-mail you provide.
- 7. Paste in the following code in Code.gs
- function currencyConversion()//
 function name

//useful with multiple functions in Script manager

{var source = UrlFetchApp.
fetch("http://openexchangerates.

fetch("http://openexchangerates.
org/latest.json?app_id=3765c31e473

94295bafda5xxxxxxxx"); //Insert the app id you received in your mail

var sheet = SpreadsheetApp. openById('0AsH1480Vr7dldEhBdm 9qQWg3dEdiYjM3exxxxxxx');

//The Spreadsheet id can be found in the URL between '?' and '#'

var obj = Utilities. jsonParse(source.getContent-Text());

//getContentText() returns json-type
data that is parsed using Utilities class
var value = sheet.

getRange("B1").getValue();
//getRange()selects cell and

getValue() retrieves value

var exRate = obj["rates"];

//The obj var has the attribute – rates which provides a list of keywords

//exRate is a pointer to the

first keyword

for (var id in exRate)
 //loops through all the keywords
{if(id="INR")

//Three character international code
{ sheet.getRange("B2").

setValue(exRate[id]);

//setValue() sets the value of the cell //Each keyword has a value

sheet.getRange("B3").

setValue (value/exRate[id]);
 //exRate array has associated values which
have the base of USD, which means
exRate[USD]==1 will be True.
}}

- 8. Save (Ctrl+S) your code and give it a name.
- 9. Go to Tools ->Script manager. A dialogue box will appear. Hit run.
- 10. A dialogue box will pop up for the Authorization of the app.
- 11. Hit OK and Accept the Google terms and conditions.
- 12. Now Run again using the Script Manager.
- 13. The last step is to establish a trigger to execute the app.
 - 1. Go to the code-editor.
 - 2. Resources ->Current
 - project's triggers
 - Add new trigger.
 Select the symmetry of the symmetry
 - 4. Select the currencyConversion() for Run and for Events, set it to From Spreadsheet and On edit.



Creating a new script

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The code in action

- Similarly add another trigger for Events with From Spreadsheet – On open settings.
- 6. Save.

14. Your currency converter is ready.It might take a few seconds to load.You can also use apps published by other

users by going to Tools ->Script gallery.

That's it!

Just by this simple tutorial, you can understand why scripting in Apps Script is much more convenient than regular java code in eclipse.

Apps Script can be learnt very easily, owing to the exhaustive collection of tutorials available on the internet for free. Event triggers, Database support and other extensions of Apps Script can be found at https://developers.google.com/ apps-script. There is also a step-by-step approach given at https://developers.google. com/apps-script/articles and for further understanding the core concepts, the tutorials at https://developers.google.com/ apps-script/guides/sheets are very useful. For any queries, there is a good chance you will be able to find a similar question at http://stackoverflow.com/tags/googleapps-script. Various other case studies are available at https://developers.google.com/ apps-script/case-studies that interested Apps Script programmers should definitely go through. 📶



Sony SmartWatch 2 is here! M Sony has launched its latest flagship smartphone Xperia Z1 and the SmartWatch 2 in India http://dgit.in/1a39DSb Surface 2 announced Microsofts claims to have worked on most of the drawbacks of its predecessor http://dgit.in/18UkM4H

The Bleeding Edge: Tech from the MIT Media Labs

The MIT Media Labs is a place where the brightest, young minds get together and work on some amazing projects that could very well shape our future. Here are some of the projects that blew our minds.

Nikhil Pradhan editor@thinkdidgit.com

Biological 3D printing with the help of silkworms

Researchers from the MIT Media Lab's Mediated Matter Group have built a large dome measuring 12 by 12 feet with the help of 6,500 live silkworms. The dome, branded 'Silk Pavilion', was constructed after researchers studied silkworms to understand the process behind how the creatures created silk. The researchers refer to the silkworm project as "a biological swarm approach to 3D printing" whose striking element is the absence of homogeneity in the construction process.

The benefit of non-homogenous 3D printing, according to the researchers, is that it is able to apply non-uniform proper-



The silk dome created with the help of 6,500 silkworms

ties to the object being created based on the environment in which it's being created and according to the varied needs of the creator. For e.g. a silkworm's cocoon will be rough and hardy on the outside but soft on the inside in order to not cause discomfiture to the worm itself. While explaining the project to Fast Company, the Director of the Mediated Matter Group, Neri Oxman stated, "The silkworm embodies everything an additive fabrication system currently lacks. It's small in size and mobile in movement, it produces natural material of variable mechanical properties, and it spins a non-homogenous, non-woven textile-like structure."

While the silkworms were busy creating the dome, the MIT researchers studied their movements with the help of tiny magnets attached to the creatures' heads. The researchers hope to feed that information into a 3D printer so that in turn, it may be able to create non-homogenous structures just like the silkworms. In order to get the silkworms to create the dome, the researchers first built a computer model of the dome itself and then created a frame for the silkworms to work on with metal and thread. They also designed the frame to allow light through in deliberate patterns to influence the silkworms' movements.

The MIT researchers' project could be extremely fruitful in improving the overall efficiency and potential of 3D printers. Currently, most 3D printers can only move in three directions and create mostly homogenous items. However, with the help of the data generated by the silkworms, 3D printers could be programmed to behave more like the silkworms and break their current shackles.

The 'Silk Pavilion' project could itself be self-replicating since the silkworms involved are changing into moths and have the potential of laying 1.5 million eggs that could help in making 250 similar domes. Check out the very interesting video on the 'Silk Pavilion' project here: http://dgit.in/18xMv14

MIT Director uses a robot and a tablet to become omniscient, omnipresent

The Director of MIT's Media Lab, Joi Ito has exploited a new telepresence system installed by Double Robotics to be able to make his presence felt everywhere on the campus. The Double Robotics telepresence system employs a wheeled robot to which a tablet can be attached. The robot can then be controlled using an app or through the Web.



MIT Media Lab Director Joi Ito using the Double Robotics telepresence system

A video posted on the MIT Media Lab's Facebook page shows Joi Ito 'rolling' around the Lab's office building, albeit a little slowly, and interacting with the people milling around the robot. While the entire video shows that the technology is still in its nascent stages, it does show a lot of potential. We can easily see a telepresence system, aided by robotics to offer mobility, gaining credence among big companies whose executives can't always afford to travel to every single one of their branches.

You can check out Joi Ito's adventures with the Double Robotics' telepresence system in the video here: http://dgit.in/14ijNh8

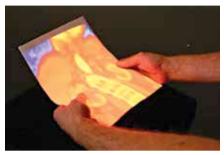
Samsung and LG agree to a truce

Both sides have agreed to throw out lawsuits pertaining to display patents against each other http://dgit.in/18mHmF5

Moon younger by 100m years New theory points out that the Moon may be a 100 million years younger than previous estimates http://dgit.in/16vrCwM

Flexpad: creating flexible projected interfaces on physical objects

Flexpad is a new project by the researchers from the Fluid Interfaces Group of the MIT Media Lab, that's evocative of MIT



An MRI scan being viewed on the FlexPad

Media Lab alumnus Pranav Mistry's 'Sixth Sense' projected interface project. The main point of focus of Flexpad is deformity- the projected interface will mould itself around physical objects such as paper or foam and will again re-mould itself when the shape of the object is changed. Users will also be able to deform objects to interact with the projected interface.

Flexpad differentiates itself from other flexible interface projects by ensuring that the deformities on the plane are captured in high detail and tracked in real-time. This is done with the help of a Kinect (the Xbox's camera accessory) and a projector, with the former helping to capture the depth and deformities of the object in front of it and the latter projecting the actual interface on the object's surface. Also, unlike previous projects that dealt with some level of projected flexible interfaces, Flexipad does not require the need for the object to have visual markers or textures and neither does it require that the object have some electronics embedded on it. The really neat part of the entire system is that it takes into account the fact that the user's hands or fingers will occupy a certain portion of the object's surface, and therefore, the Kinect camera is also used to identify and recognize the object as being separate from the user's appendages.

While Flexipad definitely sounds neat, it doesn't have the same kind of supreme mobility that Sixth Sense offered. According to the researchers, the current Flexipad setup involves a Kinect camera and a projector mounted to the ceiling above the user which creates a 3D space measuring 110 x 55 x 43 cms within which the user can work with objects as varied as sheets of paper, foam or acryllic. In spite of this setup not being mobile, it will be interesting to see how the project evolves in the future.

You can check out a video of how Flexpad works here: http://dgit.in/1563YaP

MindRider: the bicycle helmet that can read your thoughts

This is a project that would be perfect for India and would reduce road-rage and spats that often lead to more chaos on the already anarchic situation on the roads. MindRider, developed by Arlene Ducao from the Information Ecology Group of the MIT Media Lab, is a bicycle helmet that flashes coloured lights determined by the wearer's mental state. It does this by reading the EEG (Electroencephalography) feedback (essentially, the electric signals transmitted by the brain along the scalp) from the wearer's brain and transmitting them to LED lights embedded along the surface of the helmet. If the lights are green, it means that the wearer is calm; red means that the wearer is anxious or drowsy while flashing red lights mean that panic and fear have come into the picture.

The MindRider prototype constructed by Ducao comprises of NeuroSky MindSeta headset that performs EEG readings, an Arduino open-source single-board microcontroller, a Bluetooth radio so that the MindSet can communicate with the Arduino, an RGB LED light strip, transistors to control the light colours and a 9V battery. Ducao says that future versions of the MindRider could include better EEG readings, proximity sensors and visualisations that the cyclist/biker can see.

To get a better understanding of the MindRider, check out the video here: http:// dgit.in/188XDiF



Arlene Ducao wearing the MindRider

EyeRing: Giving the world the finger and getting a response

Unlike what the above title, conjured up by an author trying to act too clever, suggests, the EyeRing is a perfectly family-friendly device that is actually designed to help children and the disabled. Developed by Roy Shilkrot and Suranga Nanayakkara from the MIT Media Lab's Fluid Interfaces Group, EyeRing is a device worn around the ring-finger that gives the user information on what he/she is pointing at through either audio or visuals.

The EyeRing comprises of a microcamera placed on a ring that can be slipped over a finger and it jumps to work when a user points the finger at an object and presses the button on the side of the ring. Doing so, causes the camera to shoot a picture or record a video and then transmits them automatically to a smartphone that has been paired to the EyeRing over Blue-



The EyeRing

tooth. The visual data is then translated into text or explained in detail by a custom app that's installed on the smartphone.

The folks at Engadget managed to get their hands on the EyeRing and while they did say that the device was buggy, they couldn't help but also recognise the potential it had. The two types of users that it would benefit most would be the visually impaired and children. In the case of the former, the EyeRing could help identify signs or currency and in the case of the latter, children could use the EyeRing to help in their learning process without the constant help of an adult.

Apart from pointing the finger in the air, the Eye-Ring also works if the user touches the surface of the object to be recognised.

Check out how the EyeRing works in this video: http://dgit.in/18yMJ86

Tech@Work



Facebook pic collection Facebook user base collectively has uploaded over 250 billion photos since its launch. http://dgit.in/14zGUny



WP Ranks 2nd Windows Phone is India's second largest smartphone platform: IDC http://dgit.in/lfbCASu

Processing Mediatek's future

We caught up with Dr. Finbarr Moynihan, the General Manager of International Sales and Marketing for Mediatek and asked him a range of questions from Mediatek's outlook on the Indian market to the upcoming octa-core SoCs.

Soham Raninga editor@thinkdigit.com

MediaTek has been powering most of the budget and value smartphone offerings from Indian brands like Micromax and Xolo. When do you see Mediatek's SOCs finding a place inside global brands like Samsung, HTC, Sony and Nokia?

We are very pleased with the progress of many of the strong local brands - such as Micromax and Xolo in India - over the past years in progressing their portfolios from feature phones to now include entry and higher-tier smartphones as well such as the high-tier Canvas family from Micromax that has been quite successful in the market. As well as that, we are very pleased with the smartphones from many top 10 OEM brands worldwide that are shipping with MediaTek - including LGE, Motorola, ZTE, Huawei and others like Acer, Lenovo, Alcatel and Coolpad. We remain open and enthusiastic about potential engagement with other Tier 1 OEMs, but at this stage do not have any more specifics to announce.

In the GPU performance for the MT6589 series has been particularly weak when compared to the Tegra 3 and Qualcomm Snapdragon series of quad-core SOCs, when can we expect Mediatek to match and hopefully outperform them?

We believe that the MT6589, launched late last year, delivered the right level of GPU performance for mid-high tier smartphones – that still aim to hit affordable price points for the consumers. Some of the mentioned competitor products are more targeted at the very-high end premium models where prices can often be \$500 or more – we are aiming for a different segment with the MT6589. Indeed, for 2013, we expect that 25-35% of our smartphone shipments will be based on our quad-core



Dr. Finbarr Moynihan, GM, International Sales and Marketing

platforms, predominantly the MT6589. That said, we continue to see the need for increased GPU performance and indeed our new mobile processor, the MT8135, takes the integrated graphics performance to a new level – being the first mobile processor to integrate the latest Imagination Technologies PowerVR Series 6 GPU core.

• So far Mediatek SOCs have been powering Android devices, can we expect them to power Windows mobile devices in future? Windows is coming up as an operating system but for now they have low volumes as compared to Android. We foresee some good devices coming with Windows Phone and expect they will take a certain percentage of the market. At the moment we do not support Windows, and are focused on Android. However, MediaTek has always been open to tapping into new opportunities, and when the time comes we can support Windows in the future. We continue to monitor the progress of other Linux-based OS, such as Firefox OS, Ubuntu, Tizen – but do not expect significant market share in the short term.

Apart from smartphones and tablets, which other device categories are you betting on the most for future growth and implementation of your higher-end SOC solutions? At this stage, we remain heavily focused on the smartphone and tablet devices & platforms. At MediaTek, we also have a strong portfolio of home entertainment platforms - such as DTV and Blu-ray DVD, where we see the growing trend towards smart, connected devices that also require more CPU, GPU, multimedia and applications processing capabilities with higher-level operating systems. We expect connected, smart TVs and other home-entertainment devices like STB, DVD, IP-streaming boxes to continue to drive growth for our platforms and products.

Two years from now, how do you see yourself positioned against the likes of Qualcomm and Intel as the two major SOC players? Also, while Intel has been late to the party, their upcoming SOC solutions seem to look very promising in terms of performance and power draw. How do you see yourself competing against Intel in future? There is always competition in this business, we try not to focus on what our competitors are doing, we strive ourselves to deliver better platforms, more features. We believe that if we deliver better products and a reference solution and a support structure, it will allow us to support our customers to adopt those products. We will be successful, that is what we believe, rather than concentrating on what our competitors are doing.

Dr. Moynihan spoke to us extensively on other topics as well. To read the entire interview, go to: http://dgit.in/laiOOX2



Android under attack! A new Android malware affects smartphones and tablets that run on platform prior to v4.2.2. http://dgit.in/18MCVBF

MapmyIndia goes real-time

MapmyIndia adds real-time traffic info for Android and Windows Phone apps with its latest update. http://dgit.in/laZ4EmB

Industry Connect

Design Decoded

Satish Patil – Chief Designer, User Experience – Tata Elxsi, talks to us about user-interfaces and the future of human machine interaction

Siddharth Parwartay

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Can you briefly tell us what Tata Elxsi is all about?

Tata Elxsi is a design company that blends technology, creativity and engineering to help customers transform ideas into worldclass products and solutions. We are part of the \$100 billion Tata Group and have over 4000 employees. Our key services include embedded product design, industrial design, animation, VFX and systems integration. We have four divisions: the embedded product design team, industrial design team, the visual computing labs, and systems integration division.

We leverage the expertise of all the four divisions to form our main USP of providing end-to-end support to clients across industries. Some of the industries we cater to include - communications, consumer products, defence, healthcare, media & entertainment, consumer electronics, retail & consumer goods semiconductor and transportation sectors.

According to you, what design trends can we expect in the near future?

If you observe the recent product launches, it's evident that a lot of work is happening in the "connected devices" segment across all walks of life, be it appliances or simple health monitoring products which are always internet enabled, and can freely transfer data using Bluetooth / Wi-Fi etc. Similarly "convergence" of technologies and products is getting more pronounced day by day wherein more and more devices are "interacting" with each other much more effectively.

In terms of user experience, while Multi-touch has already become common, well understood mode of interaction, new devices will continue to experiment further with voice and gesture based UI. With improvements in display technologies, battery technologies and falling prices of hardware, in general many conventional devices will adapt "smart" operations, digitizing the interfaces.

Can you share any interesting anecdotes, or a tough challenge that your design was able to overcome?

One interesting project that we worked on was for a leading CE company to understand the usage of microwave ovens at our homes. How many of us really use those microwave ovens beyond re-heating or making noodles at home? Very few. Whereas if you ever bother to open the manual given by manufacturers it would have more than 200 "auto cook" recipes. Ever wondered why we do not use it?

One key factor is that their UI is just too cumbersome to understand for housewives. We have been solving many such problems, be it making Microwave cooking effective or designing interfaces for consumer electronics. Due to our NDA's however I wouldn't be able to share more details on the work done.

Are you at the liberty to discuss some of the work you've executed for your clients? Our readers would love to learn any real-life, everyday machine or task that they do which is powered by a Tata Elxsi project/design.

Tata Elxsi's UX design team has helped Renesas – the world's leading suppliers of microcontrollers, to demonstrate Smart Instrument Cluster Interfaces for its reference boards capable of handling 3D graphics. While 3D HMI allowed us to take the overall experience to the next level, it was challenging to optimise the design for appropriate visual quality vis-a-vis the rendering performance for latency.

On the CE front, we have developed several innovative solutions like the



Satish Patil – Chief Designer, User Experience – Tata Elxsi

"Smart TV" app for Panasonic Viera Connect series of TVs. The app can sync with an arm-band device using bluetooth, allowing you to monitor your daily calorie consumption and other body developments on the TV screen.

Other projects include – Developing Android based mobile applications and offering tablet based communication and media suite for some of the leading CE compaines.

How does one end up being a UX designer at Tata Elxsi? Do you employ only programmers or non-tech artists? Which are the top campuses that you recruit from? Given the fact that UX designers are expected to visualize abstract interaction and accordingly design the structures and layouts for functionalities in a logical and consistent manner, they need to have strong analytical skills, in addition to having a bent towards creativity. Additionally it always helps if they follow technology trends closely. Thus our UX team consists of people who cater to these criteria. We hire UI designers from IITs, NIDs, Srishti School of Art, Design and Technology amongst other institutes.

For the full interview with many more interesting questions and answers visit dgit.in/ddttelxsi

Community

The Digit squad members are at it again. Read the two articles 1-"Must have apps for android" and 2-"Rooting Android devices"

Nokia vs HTC

Nokia wins in a patent lawsuit filed against HTC for a way to remove errors from radio signals http://dgit.in/14BargE

Zombies: Saviours of the Human Race

Hey, don't look so incredulous. Of course zombies can save the human race. Think about it, one of the primary "powers" of a zombie is that it completely ignores the laws of thermodynamics. They're a source of almost unlimited power come hell or high water!



Power generation

Electricity, it's the one thing that we geeks can't live without and we're pretty sure that one of the first things a zombie apocalypse would uproot will be the infrastructure for power generation. What do we do? We round up dozens of zombies, hitch them up to a turbine and have them chase some live creature for weeks on end. They'll never tire.

Farming

The zombie apocalypse has arrived and the supermarkets are running out of food. You're a geek who somehow survived (paranoia saves lives) and you wouldn't know the first thing about harnessing a cow. But wait! Zombies! You're a walking encyclopedia on those. Hack of the hands, smash the teeth and you've got the perfect beast for your farm.





Transport

You're not really thinking about exercising those leg muscles when you travel are you? Just devise a Flintstones' style bus, put the zombies in the back and dangle a proberbial carrot (someone's arm or leg, there'll be plenty lying around) and get those unGodly creatures to start walking. You can now start a fully-functional transportation empire!



Bowling

Bowling against those standard 9-pins is so dull. One of the reasons you never did it much – apart from the fact that you couldn't life the ball – was that there wasn't enough blood and guts to appeal to you. Now, just bury nine zombies in the mud and bowl away! Put 'em in upside down if you want some more mayhem, or maybe make them last longer.

Stress-relief

That super-frustrating ARMA session's have got your blood boiling (those frickin' nO0bs! rghrfrfckrwkrtshsh!). Instead of smashing that precious keyboard, pick up your bat and go bash in some zombie skulls. They won't mind. Aaah! There's nothing like the smell of decaying flesh in the morning! Bash, bash bash! PTSD? What's that?





Crash test dummies

Vehicular safety has always been a problem. Engineers do their best, but theories and plastic dummies can only do so much. Why not go the whole hog and throw in a zombie? They're almost human and you won't find one complaining about a missing limb or three. Once damaged, discard. They're millions more where they came from.

Nokia Lumia 1020 out this October

Featuring a 41-Megapixel 1/2" camera and a Snapdragon S4 Pro processor, this beast of a device is all set to enter the Indian market this October **http://dgit.in/16u9Nir**

BlackBerry in talks to sell

The Canadian phone company is currently in talks with investers over a \$4.7billion deal to sell itself to Fairfax http://dgit.in/lb0kNZa

Unwind

How we unwind



Awesomenauts

This game turns the standard MOBA format into a side scroller, with ridiculously funny characters. The weeklong free to play offer on Steam pushed us into purchasing a four pack and much loss of productivity. Regidi and the Ant were comparative late comers to the game. Though they caught on fast enough

Humble Bundle

It's raining games here at Digit. Bundle after droolworthy bundle is coming out and despite the ridiculously low asking price, they're enough to put a strain on our ridiculously low bank balances. What can we can do? They're irresistible. Some of us have already doubled our Steam libraries.

Humble Bundle



Newsroom

The third season of Newsroom arrived and finished. A series that has been on our radar for quite a while. Unfortunately, Newsroom has turned into pompous, preachy drivel. But it still has Olivia Munn and Emily Mortimer. And if it gets too boring we just imagine Jeff Daniels in his Dumb & Dumber avatar.

digit DIARY

To say that we were short-handed this month would be an understatement. Everyone was literally run-off their feet from the very start. Regidi charged off to his hometown to put his flimsy muscles to work (his parents were shifting house) and was gone for a couple of weeks, gleefully leaving all the SKOAR! and DVD work on the heads of the Ant and Big Daddy.

The Big Daddy is an old hand at this and handled the additional workload with aplomb, the Ant also, surprisingly, managed to hold his own and pull through with only one fainting spell inbetween. On a side note, he's on track to receive the "Longest running internship" award (over nine months). He'll also be the most decorated intern we've ever had, having previously received the "Intern of the year" award as well.

While all this was going almost every tech company in India decided to hold its press conference this month. Not one day passed without a sweet-talking PR rep trying to persuade our hardy, weather-beaten staff to come and attend some sort of press event or other. At last count we received upwards of 40 invites and everyone from our features editor to our product manager was hauled off to some event or other.

If that wasn't bad enough, Jayesh bided his time, waited for Regidi's return and charged off to the US to attend yet another "press event", or so he claims; and this just at issue closing time. He's a smart one though (did we mention that he's an old hand?) and had his escape plan completely cut and dried before he informed us. He managed to wrangle a copy of GTA V out of the distributor's hands and is bequeathing us his PS3 for the duration of his trip. We're not completely mollified, but, well, it *is* GTA V after all. We've had to keep the PS3 under lock and key till the issue was done though. Our already meagre resources and exceedingly precious waking hours would have been fruit-lessly wasted – in the management's eyes – on the completion of GTA V.

Speaking of gaming, the article on levelling up in Steam (refer to the SKOAR! Interactive edition) got Sid's blood pumping. Mithun and Sid are both caught in levelling up frenzy that seems more important to them than the games they actually play. Mithun is in the lead though, far ahead. Over 5 years as a member and the hundreds of hours sunk into TF2 have their advantages.

All this is by-the-by though. We've saved the biggest tit-bit for last. Raaabo has successfully managed to clone himself! He is now the proud (very proud) father of a healthy baby boy. Our hearty congratulations to him and if you want to send him your wishes as well, do send them to *editor@thinkdigit.com*. We do wonder what he's got planned for the future of his Mini-Me though. We're sure it'll be something awesome.

Entry level BlackBerry device

Digit Squad

Codenamed "Kopi", a new entry level smartphone in the development stages has been spotted http://dgit.in/15oFajv

More control over social media PM calls for stricket control over social media. Says that it shouldn't be used to promote hatred http://dgit.in/19vR4FB



This month we highlight some aspiring tech writers and their spirited attempt to get published in the magazine. Let's have more!

Readers' write-ups



Must have apps for your android cell phone

We often buy smart phones and are not able to make complete use of their potential. Here

Kanishk Tiwari

are some basic must have apps which can unleash the capabilities of your smart Android device and help you use it better.

1. MX player: This is the best third party video player present in the Android market. It plays almost all recognized video formats (.mp4 , .avi , .mkv etc). It has a very convenient and user friendly interface to adjust volume and brightness right from the screen. You can pan and zoom the video directly, as well.

2. Power Amp:

One will be amazed by the sound quality delivered by this player. It contains one of the best and finest equalizers among music player apps. Once you customize the bass and treble, you will never return to your stock music player, even if it is as good as Beats Audio.

3. WordWeb

We often expect a dictionary in our smartphones, but are unable to find a good offline dictionary which does not require Internet access all the time. Word Web Pro is the best offline dictionary that your smartphone can use.

4. File manager

When we need to transfer or share files from our phone, File manager is the best app. It's also very user friendly when it comes to dealing with zip files since it has all the required options available. You don't need anything else.

5. Myappsharer

Ever been in a situation where you liked some app on your friend's Android phone, but you did not have access to the Play Store to download it to your phone? With this app you can just share the app with him and ask him to forward the apk of any small app which you liked in his cell phone via Bluetooth or other social apps.

6. All in one tool box

This tool helps to clean your phone's RAM and cache memory effectively without bringing any kind of lag in itself. It has many other features like SD clean, which cleans all the temporary thumb images eating up your memory card space.

7. Flash light

This app simply converts your LED flash to a torch light. With its widget on your home screen, you can turn on the flash light by just tapping once on the screen widget.

8. Super Backup

This back up app not only takes back ups of your contacts, messages but also the apk of all the applications you ever installed. You can mail these backups of contacts and retrieve them any time you want using the same app.

9. Color Note

Sometimes we randomly see some information and want to remember it for later use. This app is basically like Windows' Notepad, and allows you to store the info in different colour codes according to importance.

10.Free SMS India

At times, if you run out of balance in your message pack and want to text your friend, who's not on WhatsApp, something important, just login with any of the gateways (way2sms, 16Oby2, indyarocks, fullonsms) and send messages free of cost to any mobile across India (the app does require Internet access though).

11.Barcode scanner

This app not only allows you to scan bar codes but QR codes too. We frequently see URLs in the form of QR codes and this app works well to deal with them. What's great is that the app works even without a front facing camera on a phone.

12. Viber

This is one of the best messengers in a group that includes venerable names like WhatsApp. The distinguishing feature of Viber is that it lets you directly connect over voice with the other person in the app's contact list. Viber has recently reduced voice quality to make it feasible for 2G users too.

13. Night mode

This app creates a small dark film on your screen which results in reduced brightness of your display. It does not decrease battery drain, but proves very useful when used in dark areas.

14. Share via HTTP

This app helps you share files among many devices simultaneously. How does it work? All the devices need to be connected to the same WiFi network. Now you can share any file from your gallery or through a file manager. This app works best with a barcode scanner app installed. Using such a scanner app, you can convert the url into QR codes and then easily scan and use it.

15.Opera Mini

This is the lightest browser in the Play Store and is only around 1MB in size and can be easily used when the Internet connectivity isn't very good unlike other browsers.

Angry Birds Star Wars II

Game with new levels, powers, and game mechanics released for Android, IOS and Windows Phone 8 http://dgit.in/15ougwt



Amkette Evo TV winner The winner of Digit Smarter TV contest is "Neeraj Kumar Chandak" from Bangalore and he wins the Amkette EvoTV



Rooting an Android phone / tablet (in detail)

While 'rooting' is a popular term, not everybody understands what the process involves. Rooting Android

Kanishk Tiwari

is like getting administrator access in Windows. As Android is built over the Linux kernel, every Linux OS has a root access called SU(SuperUser). What SU does is let you access all the system files stored in an Android smartphone. For example: in Windows C:/Windows has all the files required to run Windows OS, and getting admin access means you can manipulate those files to a certain extent. Similarly SU gives you access to view and even edit those files in Android. Without rooting it's only possible to view the system folder but not to view or edit the system files.

ADVANTAGES OF ROOTING AN ANDROID SMARTPHONE

Getting Access to the system core

You'll feel great when you root your phone because you will get complete access to the system core files and you can even edit them. This means you can edit the default settings like bluetooth visibility time, unlock a carrier locked phone, and many other things.

Uninstalling the inbuilt or default apps and save space in your Stock ROM

Some phones come with inbuilt apps which cannot be uninstalled so when you root the phone you can delete unwanted apps with ease. For example: a Samsung phone has a group play app which comes preinstalled and can't be uninstalled by default. Through rooting, you can remove that app.

Install more apps to increase customization levels

Some apps in the Play Store require special root access to increase the level of customization. Apps like Seeder (used to increase the smoothness of the ROM), Pimp My ROM (used to edit ROM styles), SetDNS (used to set dns) are some good examples of the type.

Increasing the internal memory

The internal memory issue is not seen these days as phones comes with good amount of

internal memory. There used to be special scripts to change the partition of your memory card to EXT and FAT32 so the EXT partition used to act as the internal memory of the phone which solved the memory problem in phones during those days.

Installing a custom recovery menu in your phone

The normal stock recovery menu has no access to install custom zip package of custom

ROMs so there are custom recovery menus like ClockWorkMod, TWRP. These should be the first things you install.

Installing custom scripts

When the phone is rooted, you can install custom scripts like Beats Audio driver, Sony Bravia engine and even scripts to overclock the processor or extend the battery life.

Installing custom ROM

This is the important thing: the reason why many people root their phones to install custom ROMs like CyanogenMod, MIUI, AOSP etc. is because they increase the phone's performance.

PRECAUTIONS TO BE TAKEN BEFORE AND AFTER ROOTING

The first thing is to make sure you find the stock ROM of your phone. The Stock ROM is the ROM/OS which is in your smartphone on day one. The reason to keep the stock ROM is to restore the phone if it's bricked.

Backing up EFS Partition

EFS Partition is the inbuilt partition which you'll find in almost every phone. When you root you actually get access to the EFS Partition which contains your phone's IMEI number , Wi-Fi Mac Address And Bluetooth Mac Address. The reason you should backup this partition is to restore your phone if the flashing process corrupts your phone's system files. Backup this partition and store the files somewhere in the Cloud so you can access them anytime. To easily backup this partition, download the



Essential Android apps

EFSBackup app from the Play Store.

Taking backups and Nandroid backup

There are apps like Titanium Backup, Go Backup which let you backup your contacts, SMS, installed apps , installed apps' data and much more. The reason to use this is when you flash a custom ROM you will need to back these up as they can't be restored once

your memory card is erased.

Nandroid Backup is a backup app that saves an entire 'image' of your phone, including app status and data and you can restore a complete ROM with this app.

DISADVANTAGES OF ROOTING

Voiding the warranty of your smartphone

A big thing that you have to keep in mind is that you actually void the warranty of your smartphone at the time you root it but you can deal with this if you have backed up the stock ROM of your phone. Just flash the phone with the Stock ROM and it will unroot the phone and install the stock recovery too.

Chances of Bricking the Phone

A 'Soft' brick can be restored by flashing the phone with the stock ROM. if it's a hard brick then the entire motherboard of the phone will have to be changed.

Chances of introducing a virus in the system

When you flash custom zips or custom packages, there is a chance that you may introduce viruses into your phone that may steal your personal data, cause massive system errors, reduce your smartphone's performance, cripple certain features or other issues. To reduce this risk, make sure you read the complete details about the developer who has made the custom ROM before flashing it to your smartphone.

If you want to join this elite gang of Digit Squad members, drop us an email at editor@thinkdigit. com with "Digit Squad" in the subject line **[**]







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