MVDIT
TECH BOOK

WE Have a Look at the newly announced windows 7 and touch features

EDITORIAL

It is my pleasure to present to you the ninth edition of my magazine to you.

The magazine has been quite popular among the students and teachers at Manav Sthali School, since its launch online.

The magazine presents news and reviews on latest Information Technology written by me and my friends. Our focus is all kinds of technology be it in computers, mobiles, games, cars. Everything Technical goes in here.

The different editions for magazines are available for download at www.mvdittechbook.co.nr in a pdf format.

Suggestions are welcome for the improvement of the magazine.

Vidit Bhargava
Editor MVDIT TECH BOOK

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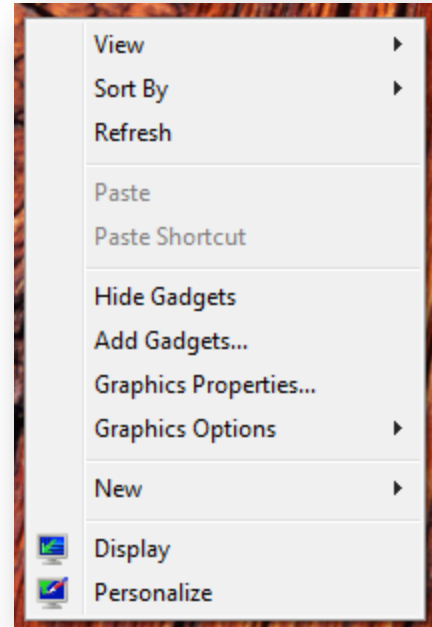
IN THE LIMELIGHT

Microsoft Windows 7

Vidit Bhargava

After an okay year with Windows Vista, Microsoft this year announced the new Microsoft windows version i.e. Windows 7. We certainly expect a lot more from windows 7 but it's too early to say anything because it's scheduled to release in 2010.

In an exclusive interview Mr. Bill Gates said, "I will say that if you are impressed by the "touch features" in the iPhone, you'll be blown away what's coming in Windows 7. Now if only we could convince more OEMs that Windows Touch Technology is going to drive their sales"

Currently Windows 7 is available for some Microsoft developers. The recent built released on 20th April

2008 namely Millstone 1, millstone 2 is expected to release in may.

Mr. Hilton Locke the chief engineer of Tablet PC reported that the new windows 7 would have some great touch features. This thing was expected after the success of the Apple iPhone.

Though this might look interesting but you must have Windows Vista to install Windows 7. Indians might just have to wait a little longer to use this one.

Keep reading for more updates.
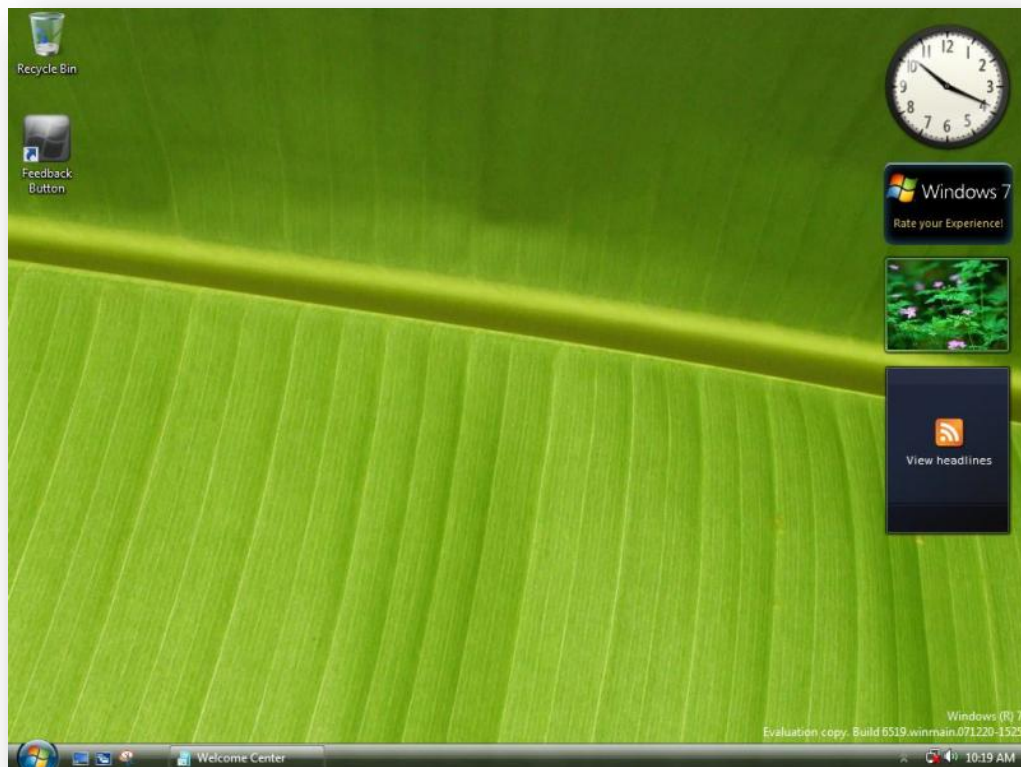
We welcome a new writer for the Tech Book.

Mridul Kapoor

The Power of Open Source

Mridul Kapoor

Open Source Software refers to those software which can be freely run, studied, examined, modified, and redistributed by everyone who has a copy. This software, dubbed "free software" in 1983, has also come to be known as "open-source software", "software libre", "FOSS", and "FLOSS". "Free", here, is about being unfettered, not about cost.

Basically what advantage you have with Open Source is that you would be using something that is customized and can be further done so. You need not worry about the costs that could gobble up a substantial amount of money from your pocket.

The availability of the source code and the right to modify it is very important. It enables the unlimited tuning and improvement of a software product. It also makes it possible to adapt it to changing conditions, and to reach a detailed understanding of how the system works. This is why many experts are reaching the conclusion that to really extend the lifetime of an application, it must be available in source form.

In Computers there is one very famous Moore's Law. It is the empirical observation made in 1965 that the number of transistors on an integrated circuit for minimum component cost doubles every 24 months.

"The first microprocessor only had 22 hundred transistors. We are looking at something a million times that complex in the next generations—a billion transistors. What that gives us in the way of flexibility to design products is phenomenal."

—Gordon E. Moore

So, we can clearly see that this law holds truth to this very day. Coming back to Open Source… As per the law, hardware changes are expected in computer science very rapidly. It is at this very point that the power of open source comes into play. Software released without its source code or as we would call it—a closed source software—would not be able to survive in the scenario for much time. The right to use the software in any way. This, combined with redistribution rights, ensures a large population of users(only if the software is useful enough), which helps in turn to build up a market for support and customization of the software. This would attract more and more developers to work in the project. Ultimately it helps to improve the quality of the product, and to improve its functionality. This, once more,

will cause more and more users to give the product a try, and probably to use it regularly. In contrast with proprietary software, the user gets guarantee of ample support. This support is available free of cost to everyone over and through the online community. Most often, this support is superior to proprietary solutions. As for the limitations, all Open Source is a "Work-in-Progress"—When we say this, it is true for some but not for all. The key components like Linux (Operating System), Apache (Web Server), MySQl etc are dominating "prime time" internet with stable, secure and quality solutions. Some are still under development but workable and for those individuals or companies that might be using them, they are good enough.
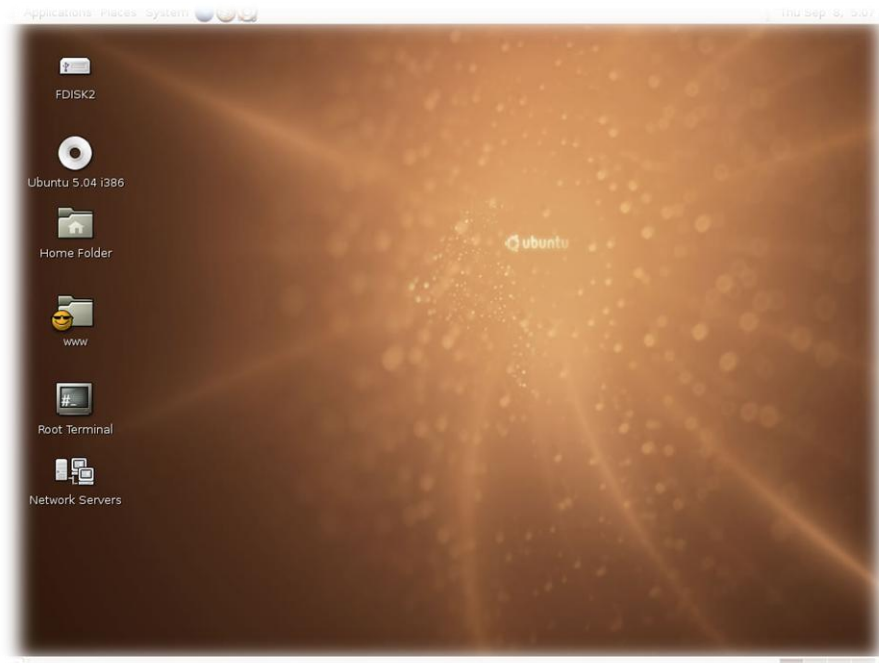
CARS

MVDIT TECH BOOK is not just about computers, it's about all that techie stuff coming in the market these days.

So let's have a look at some of the best cars:

Volkswagen New Beetle

VW uses steel reinforcements in the doors which are designed to absorb and redirect impact energy upon a side impact - basically creating a steel cage to protect passengers. It sounds good on paper and even better on impact.

BMW M3 Convertible

On a vehicle like this, a powerful display of strength is everything. The sculpted front of the BMW M3 Convertible makes no secret of the tremendous power that lies in wait beneath the bonnet. While classic M styling, such as the M gills and chrome-plated steel twin exhaust pipes, helps underline its dynamic presence and elegance. Only the interplay of these measures ensures the desired effect: sports car performance that is ideally suited to everyday driving.

MP3 Players

Creative Zen

A huge array of features packaged in one tiny design.

This is the new Creative ZEN™ at a glance. Decked out in an all-black suit, the Creative ZEN is smaller than your average credit card and sits snugly right in your palm. With an attractive 11.3mm thickness, this sleek player weighs a mere 65g, allowing you to carry it around easily.

It is also one of the lightest players around that is able to boast a capacity of up to 8GB while supporting different popular media formats. What's more, you can add as much capacity as you want with its SD memory expansion slot. With its patented ZEN user interface which offers more information to be viewed on the screen, navigating through mass content is simply a breeze. You can even accessorize this pint-sized dynamo with optional accessories such as the ZEN Leather Case or the ZEN Skin Pack.

Celebrate the arrival of the latest revolution on the portable player scene. Welcome the Creative

Zune

Beautiful, big screen. Featuring a 3.2-inch color screen, Zune 80GB is perfect for portable video viewing.

Wireless sync. Cut the cord to your PC. Refresh your Zune with new content anytime you charge your device, through your home wireless network.

Wireless Zune-to-Zune sharing. Share full-length tracks of your favorite songs, albums, playlists, pictures and even audio podcasts. Listen to the full track of any song you receive up to three times, and even pass along songs you receive to other friends nearby who have a Zune. If you like a song you receive, you can easily add it to your wish list and then buy it from your PC the next time you sync.

Recorded TV or movies to go. Zune will import unprotected .WMV, .MPG4 and H.264 files into your video library. Also, if you're recording TV shows or movies with Windows Media Center in Windows Vista®, you can import and sync them to your device. Load up your favorite videos and hit the road.

Built-in FM radio. Tune in to one of your favorite local stations while on the go or working out. Advanced tuning capabilities let you see the name of the song currently playing on select frequencies.

Source: Internet

Apple iPod Nano

The Ultra Thin iPod Nano with a 2" wide TFT screen and an 8 GB memory for storing movies, TV shows and Music is a great mp3 player.

The Apple iPod was the first mp3 player of its kind, where you could listen to the music without a CD or a Cassette.

Launched on 23 October 2001 the iPod is said to be a revolution in the music industry.

This is the 3rd Generation of the iPod Nano

It's the small iPod with one very big idea: Video. Now the world's most popular music player lets you enjoy home movies, video podcasts, and more. The larger, brighter display means amazing picture quality. In six eye-catching colors, iPod nano is stunning all around. And with 4GB and 8GB models starting at just US$149, little speaks volumes.

EA and Warner Bros. Interactive Entertainment announce Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince™ Video Game

EA's Casual Entertainment Label and Warner Bros. Interactive Entertainment today announced that the Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince™ video game

will be released later this year to coincide with the Warner Bros. Pictures film based on J.K. Rowling's sixth Harry Potter book.

"We believe that the Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince video game represents a milestone in the movie tie-in genre," said Harvey Elliott, Head of EA Bright Light studio in the UK where the Harry Potter franchise has its home. "Building on the technological advancements of previous games in the series and with a particular focus on the unique control system of Nintendo's Wii™, the team here is working closely with the filmmakers to create an immersive interactive experience that captures the story, the action, the excitement and, above all, the fun of the film."

"Working with EA, we look forward to offering fans a compelling Harry Potter video game, one which captures the thrilling storyline and high visual quality of the movie," said Scott Johnson, Vice President, Business Development for Warner Bros. Interactive Entertainment. "The adherence to the rich fiction is a trademark of this franchise and with Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince fans will experience the most authentic and enjoyable game in the series to date."

In Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince, Voldemort is tightening his grip on both the Muggle and wizarding worlds and Hogwarts is no longer the safe haven it once was. Harry suspects that dangers may even lie within the castle, but Dumbledore is more intent upon preparing him for the final battle that he knows is fast approaching.

Ratatouille

Vidit Bhargava

★★★

Ratatouille is one of those animation films where you don't like the story that much but the animation forces you to sit 2 hours and watch it.

So let's not concentrate on the story and look towards the animation used in the film. The movie is made by Pixar studios and Walt Disney which together make wonders.

The film has already won an Oscar for the best animation film. That's why I thought of watching this film.

The film uses some animation sequences that mesmerize our eyes. Like the one in which the rat washes his hands with a drop of water. This thing was possible because they used "core animation".

On the whole the movie uses great antinational skills. But this was possible because of PIXAR studios. Full credit to them for this great animation adventure
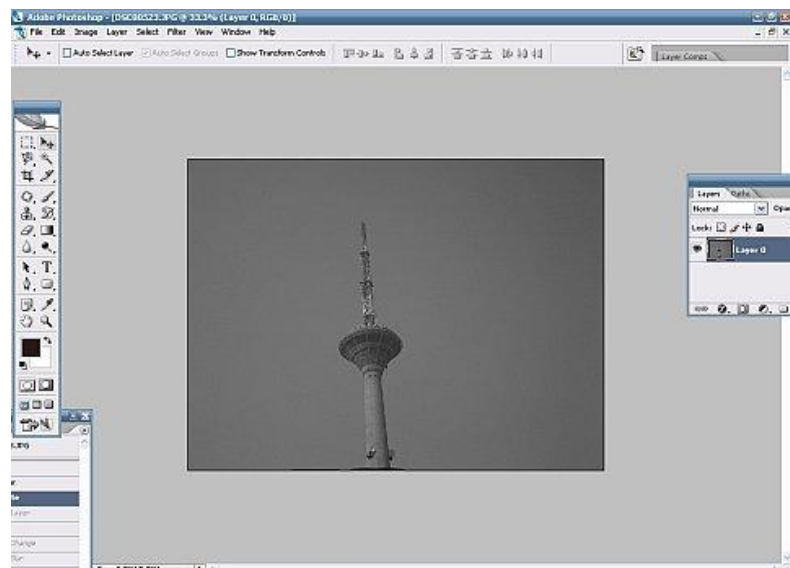
A tutorial to use Photoshop

Here another tutorial. This time, its an interesting one using Photoshop. It lets you create sketches from ordinary photos.
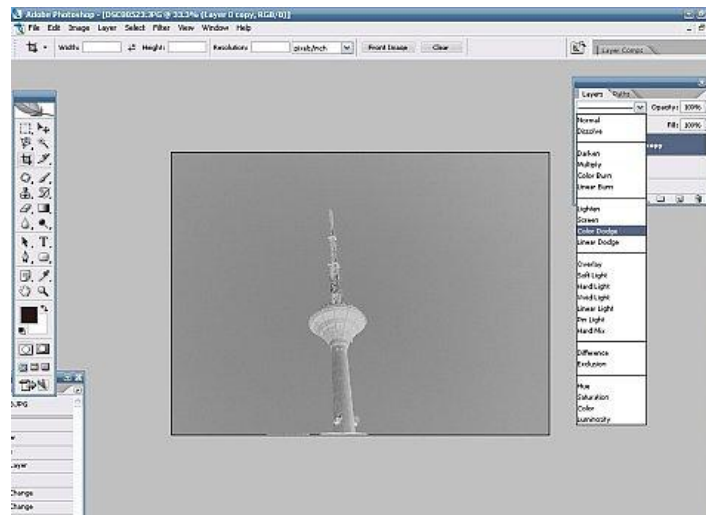So Lets Begin

Open the Photograph in Photoshop. I chose a photo of The Pitampura TV Tower which I had shot myself.

Unlock the Layer(by choosing 'Layer from Background' or 'Duplicate Layer Option') Desaturate the layer(Ctrl+Shift+U).

Make a copy of the Layer. Now working on the Duplicate Layer, Invert the Layer(Ctrl+I) to give it a negative like look. Then choose Color Dodge.

Your photo would go blank. But dont worry and Choose Filters—->Blur—->Gaussian Blur. Choose the appropriate Radius(~9. and Press OK. You are done

Note: You may also try Radial Blur.

Sony Cyber Shot T2

The Sony DSC-T2 features an eight-megapixel sensor which is coupled to an internal Carl Zeiss Vario-Tessar branded 3x optical zoom lens and a 2.7-inch touch panel LCD display. The DSC-T2's 38 to 114mm equivalent lens incorporates Sony's Super SteadyShot optical image stabilization to minimize blur caused by camera shake at slow shutter speeds. The lens is protected by a sliding cover which nicely retracts flush with the surface of the camera body when closed, making the T2 more pocket-friendly. Other T2 features include ISO sensitivity to a maximum of ISO 3,200, a Memory Stick Duo/PRO Duo card slot plus a truly whopping 4GB of built in memory, and power from a proprietary NP-BD1 InfoLithium rechargeable battery.

The Sony T2 also offers USB 2.0 Hi-speed connectivity for connection to a personal computer, and high definition component video connectivity for viewing on the latest HD televisions. The Sony Cybershot T2 also includes Sony's face detection technology, which is linked not only to the camera's autoexposure and autofocus systems as in most similar systems, but also to white balance and flash metering as well -- allowing the T2 to ensure proper flash exposure and pleasing flesh tones. Also included is Sony's "Smile Shutter," which detects when a subject is smiling and automatically captures the photo without pressing the shutter button.

The Sony Cyber-shot DSC-T2 ships from December 2007 priced at U.S. $350, and is available in blue, green, pink, white, or black, with matching case colors available separately.