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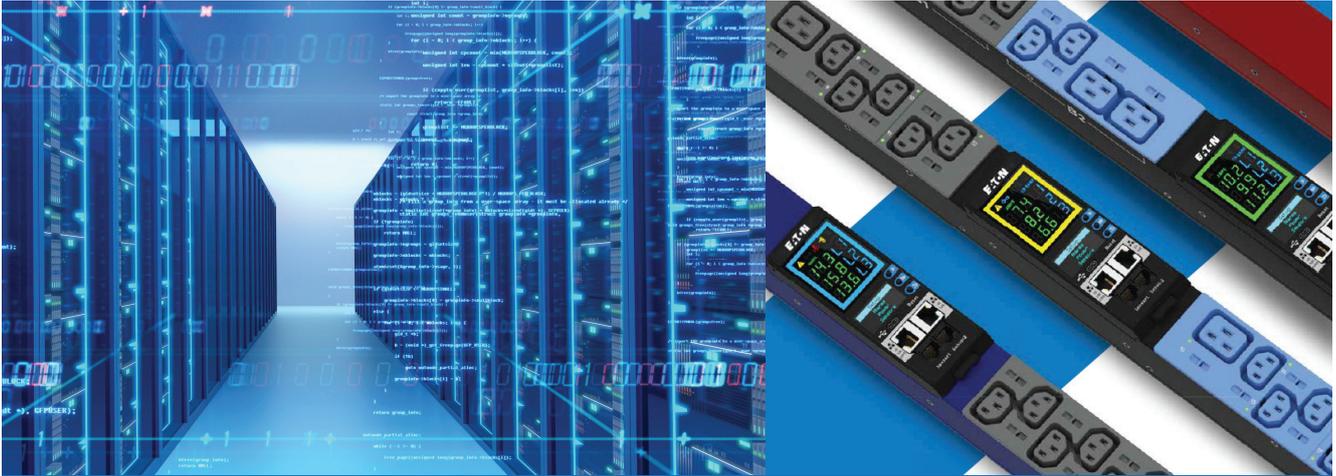
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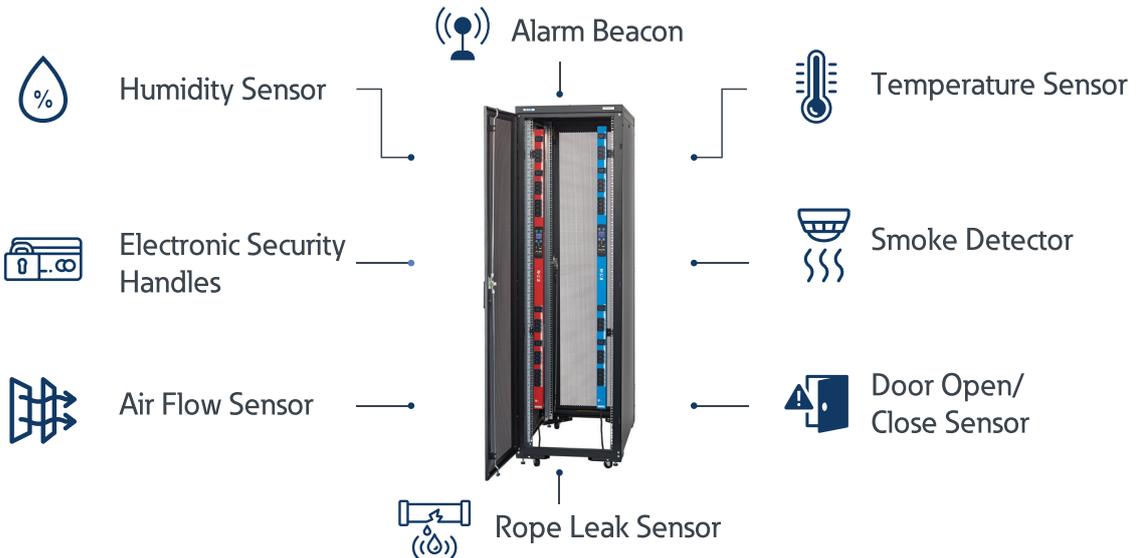
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From the Editor

Tarun Taunk | Editor-in-Chief

“What does the Government of India have in store for Indian crypto investors?”

The Reserve Bank of India is planning an upcoming bill that would, in turn, pass a law prohibiting private digital currencies and favouring a digital currency backed by the Reserve Bank of India, raising the question, “Where are digital currencies headed?”

The RBI has stated that it is “very much in the game” and is preparing to launch its own digital currency. “Central bank digital currency is still in the works. The RBI team is working on it, both on the technological and procedural fronts...how it will be launched and rolled out,” Governor Shaktikanta Das recently stated.

The Cryptocurrency and Regulation of Official Digital Currency Bill, 2021, which prohibits all private cryptocurrencies and establishes the regulatory framework for the launch of a “official digital currency,” was scheduled to be introduced during Parliament’s Budget session but has been postponed while the government continues discussions with stakeholders. The Bill’s final draught is still in the works.

According to sources, the government is willing to support a digital currency backed by a central bank. “A fiat currency cannot experience the volatility and fluctuations that Bitcoin and other cryptocurrencies do. We’re keeping an open mind. An RBI official stated, “We are very open to a digital currency; the RBI is working on that.” Govt. officials and experts argue that cryptocurrency prices are too volatile to be used as a fiat currency – a government-issued currency that is not backed by gold or any other commodity – even though proponents argue that volatility will decrease with greater acceptance.

Uncertainty about the legal status of cryptocurrencies is unsettling and concerning for Indian investors, who, according to unofficial estimates, own approximately \$1.5 billion (Rs 10,000 crore) in digital currencies. While existing investors may be given time to exit their positions in the event of a ban on trading, mining, and holding cryptos, the proposed legal structure may require investors and traders to declare their holdings and transactions retroactively.

According to the RBI, central banks are looking into DLT (Distributed Ledger Technology) for use in improving financial market infrastructure and according to a recent Bank for International Settlements survey of central banks, approximately 80% of the 66 responding central banks have begun projects to explore the use of central bank digital currency (CBDC) in some form and are studying its potential benefits and implications for the economy.

Several cryptocurrency-related start-ups have emerged in India, including Unocoin in 2013 and Zebpay in 2014. (Tracxn, 2019). However, the volatility of Bitcoin prices, as well as instances of fraud, have highlighted regulatory concerns, according to the RBI. The RBI has expressed concern about other cryptocurrencies, claiming that they can be used for illegal purposes and pose a risk to financial stability. After digital currencies were used in frauds, the RBI banned banks and other regulated entities from supporting crypto transactions in April 2018. The ban was declared unconstitutional by the Supreme Court in March 2020. Both the government and the RBI have stated that they have not authorised or issued regulations for any entity to deal with cryptocurrencies, and that individuals who do so would face penalties and are liable completely. The Reserve Bank of India has issued several warnings against dealing in cryptocurrencies.

Since mid-February, Bitcoin has gone through a period of drops and consolidation before reaching an all-time high of \$61,000, indicating a larger trend.

While the current price increase can be attributed to increased institutional exposure to Bitcoin and global progress toward fostering a friendlier regulatory environment for cryptocurrencies, it is also the result of a large supply reduction combined with increasing demand.

We hope that the speculation about a cryptocurrency ban in India ends soon, and that the government takes note of the growing demand for Bitcoin among domestic investors, as Bitcoin has the potential to reach \$100,000 by the end of the year.

Microsoft Acquires Nuance

Nuance gets acquired by Microsoft for \$19.7 Billion

Microsoft acquires Nuance, an AI speech tech company for 19.7 billion dollars. This is the second biggest acquisition after buying LinkedIn. Microsoft believes that this acquisition will combine and enhance the expertise and solutions to deliver cloud and AI capabilities across many industries, including healthcare too.



This acquisition will be for \$56 per share, inferring to a 23% premium to a closing price on Friday, in an all cash transactions, inclusive of Nuance net debt. Microsoft acquires Nuance Source: Microsoft "Dragon" a software by Nuance for transcription is one of the best known in the market right now, and thought the help of Deep learning in Artificial Intel-

ligence, this technology is improving rapidly day by day. And even Siri, assistant by Apple also relies on Dragon to an extent for its working.

Digital transcription has now become much more important in this time where remote working is given more importance. Zoom Meeting, University lectures, are also using transcription for a better overall understanding.

For Microsoft, their 2/3 of revenue is from enterprise sales and cloud computing.

Cybersecurity and AI Reality

The Realities Of AI In Cybersecurity: Catastrophic Forgetting

There is a lot of hype about the use of artificial intelligence (AI) in cybersecurity. The truth is that the role and potential of AI in security is still evolving and often requires experimentation and evaluation. SophosAI is committed to openly sharing its data science research with the security community in order to make the use of AI more transparent and influence how AI is positioned and discussed in cybersecurity. Details of other initiatives shared as part of this objective are available in the SophosAI blog.

Catastrophic forgetting: What is it? Malware detection is the cornerstone of IT security

and AI is the only approach capable of learning patterns from millions of new malware samples within a matter of days.

But there's a catch: should the model keep all malware samples forever for optimum detection but slower learning and updates; or go for selective fine-tuning that enables the model to better keep up with the rate of change of malware, but runs the risk of forgetting older patterns (known as catastrophic forgetting)?

Retraining the whole model takes about one week. A good fine-tuning model should take about one hour to update.

SophosAI wanted to see if it was possible to have a fine-tuning model that could keep up with the evolving threat landscape,

SOPHOS

learn new patterns but still remember older ones, while minimizing the impact on performance. Researcher Hillary Sanders evaluated a number of update options and has detailed her findings in the Sophos AI blog.

The detection dilemma Keeping detection capabilities up to date is a constant battle. With every step we take towards defending against a malicious attack, adversaries are already developing new ways to get round it, releasing updates with different code or techniques. The result is that hundreds of thousands of new malware samples appear every day.

Detection is made even harder by the fact that the latest-and-greatest malware is rarely completely "new." Instead, it is more likely to be a combination of new, old, shared, borrowed or stolen code and adopted and adapted behaviors.

McAfee Observes 3.1 Million External Attacks On Cloud User Accounts

McAfee

McAfee Corp. (Nasdaq: MCFE), the device-to-cloud cybersecurity company, today released its McAfee Threats Report: April 2021, examining cyber-criminal activity related to malware and the evolution of cyber threats in the third and fourth quarters of 2020. In Q4, McAfee Labs observed an average of 648 threats per minute, an increase of 60 threats per minute (10%) over Q3. The two quarters also saw COVID-19-related cyber-attack detections increase by 240% in Q3 and 114% in Q4, while Powershell threats again surged 208% due to continued increases in Donoff malware activity.

"The world—and enterprises—adjusted amidst pandemic restrictions and sustained remote work challenges, while security threats continued to evolve in complexity and increase in volume," said Raj Samani, McAfee fellow and chief scientist. "Though a large percentage of employees grew more proficient and productive in working remotely, enterprises endured more opportunistic COVID-19 related campaigns among a new cast of bad-actor schemes.

Cybersecurity experts are one of the most in-demand IT professionals, thanks to the high priority that organizations place on building secure digital infrastructures that can scale. The push for remote work has further increased the demand for cybersecurity experts.

According to a research report from the SANS Institute, a Bethesda-based security research and training firm—anyone looking to break into the cybersecurity industry should focus more on in-demand skills. With that in mind, if one wants to plunge into a career in cybersecurity, here are some of the in-demand skills to focus on.



10 Most In-demand Cybersecurity Skills That Employers are Seeking in 2021

Application Development Security: Application development security is the fastest-growing cybersecurity skill and is predicted to see a 164% increase in available positions over five years (source- Burning Glass, a leading labor market analytics firm). Atlas VPN also predicts the demand for this experience will rise 164% in five years.

Cloud Security: As organizations migrate to the cloud, they need security professionals who are cloud-savvy. Thus, cloud security skills can help to build the foundation that one needs to secure data in the cloud.

Advanced Malware Prevention: The increasing number of malware attacks, calls for experts who can leverage the ad-

vanced malware protection software designed to prevent, detect, and help remove threats in an efficient manner from computer systems.

SIEM Management: Security Information and Event Management (SIEM) is a set of tools and services offering a holistic view of an organization's information security. It's one of the strongest tools in a cybersecurity professional arsenal. As an SIEM expert, one needs to know how to generate insights from its analytics as those can help identify patterns of suspicious behaviour to help organizations to combat cyber threats.

Threat Intelligence: Cyber threat intelligence is knowledge that allows security teams to prevent

or mitigate cyberattacks. Threat intelligence sources include open source intelligence, social media intelligence, human intelligence, technical intelligence or intelligence from the deep and dark web.

DevSecOps: Organizations are increasingly moving beyond DevOps to DevSecOps. It is a culture shift in the software industry that aims to bake security into the rapid-release cycles that are typical of modern application development and deployment.

Security Incident Response: Incident response (IR) is a structured methodology for handling security incidents, breaches, and cyber threats. A well-defined IR plan allows organizations to effectively minimize the impact of cyber-attack, thereby reducing the cost of the same.

The Right Accounting Software

Top 7 tips For Choosing The Right Accounting Software For e-Invoicing

The Central Board of Indirect Taxes & Customs (CBIC) has already mandated E-invoicing since October 2020 for businesses with a turnover of 500+ crore since January 2021 for businesses with turnover 100+ crore and from April onwards for 50+ crore companies. Small businesses can now become a part of

the digital process by using an accounting software required for e-invoicing. In the last few years, it has gained traction and become a common B2B practice. As the Government of India has made e-invoicing mandatory for firms with a turnover of 50 crores or more, it will get embedded in every company's business processes and practices. E-invoicing aids in automating the authentication process for the invoices.

Having the right software in place can empower your

Account Payable staff to do more than just inputting data. If your business is looking to implement an e-invoicing solution, here are seven features that you need to look out for.

- Identifying IRN, QR Code, and Digital Signature
- Standard e-invoice format recommended by the GoI
- Proper bifurcation of transactions
- Syncing Invoices to your Accounts Payable and Receivable Module
- Integration of Data An-

alytics

- Security of Confidential Information
- 360-degree Support Services.

A dedicated technical and functional team with quick response time to solve queries and issues of customers related to E-invoicing, accounting, and software. All the above-mentioned features in an accounting software can greatly benefit organisations.



HCL Expands Global Collaboration

Expansion with With Intel To Accelerate Digital Transformation

HCL Technologies (HCL), a leading global technology company, today announced the expansion of its strategic global collaboration with Intel to empower clients worldwide to accelerate their digital transformation strategy with SAP® platforms and solutions. The combination of HCL's SAP services and solutions and deep domain knowledge with Intel's technology and architecture



expertise gives organizations the building blocks to deploy transformational solutions faster and with greater success.

HCL and Intel's extended collaboration will enable organizations to maximize the business value of their SAP deployments. HCL and Intel will create joint industry reference architectures that they will bring to market together, along with vertical-specific solutions to support key use cases. Initially, the collaboration will focus on the telecom sector,

with plans for expansion to manufacturing and health-care use cases in the future.

The joint industry reference architectures will be based on SAP Business Technology Platform (SAP BTP), enabling organizations to benefit from the scalability of microservices-based applications in cloud environments. This also brings together the value of both SAP and non-SAP applications, along with connectivity to back-office processes, helping to simplify transformation and build more intelligent enterprises for the digital economy.



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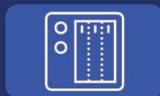
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Apple Announces WWDC 2021

The Apple Worldwide Developers Conference is finally coming, it will be hosted as a virtual event from June 7th to June 11th 2021.

“We love bringing our developers together each year at WWDC to learn about our latest technologies and to connect them with Apple engineers,” said Susan Prescott, Apple’s vice president of Worldwide Develop-

er Relations and Enterprise and Education Marketing. “We are working to make WWDC21 our biggest and best yet, and are excited to offer Apple developers new tools to support them as they create apps that change the way we live, work, and play.”

While Apple has been working on hardware upgrade for Apple Silicon Macs, there’s no conformity on any relevant announcements, but there will announcements for iOS, iPadOS, macOS, watchOS and tvOS.

In the press release by Apple,



they also committed \$1 million to SJ Aspires, an education and equity initiative.

Apple will share more information through the website, email and through the WWDC21.



Google has also announced dates for its I/O 2021, and it’ll be on May 18th – May 20th. This year’s event will be fully digital and free for every-

one to watch.

All the interested developer can now register through the Google’s I/O Event website, and until then all the interested participants can go on to solve the puzzle on their URL.

After completing the registrations, the participant will receive access to AMA sessions, workshops, personalized content, live Q&A, developer badges and many more.

So, what should we expect from the

Google’s I/O 2021 Dates Announced (Digital Only Event)

Google I/O 2021 event? We should most likely expect the update of the Android, the Android 12 including a lot of new updates and features. We might also see the new Pixel 5a and the budget pixel buds too.

Microsoft’s Build 2021 all set to commence on May 25th to May 27th

Microsoft’s Build 2021 is also ready to set off in May from 25th to 27th, they didn’t publish an official post or something but instead it is listed on their event’s page and all



the other descriptions of the event are available on their website.

This is now an official statement as they listed it on their website, but there is no clue on when the registrations

will begin, we should expect a couple of updates from the this event including Windows 10 Sun Valley update, on Microsoft Edge, Office and more.

This event will be on online platform same as the last year and free of charge, along with couple of other events too.



Facebook’s F8 Refresh is also about to hit the tech market soon.

Unlike last year, when it was cancelled due to coronavirus. But this year they

are back to engage their developers audiences.

And this time instead of Mark Zuckerberg giving an opening note, Facebook’s VP of Platform Partnerships, Konstantinos Papamiltiadias will be delivering the opening presentation giving us all about the updates in their existing platforms and new tools

Facebook’s F8 Refresh to happen on June 2nd

for Facebook, Instagram, Oculus and WhatsApp. Zuckerberg may come in and speak for other stuffs.

With Zuckerberg not leading the event, we may have fewer consumer realted announcements.

Neerja Software Joins Hands With Oloo Spartans For The Futuristic Products

The pandemic only acted as a catalyst for the increase in demand for health supplements. People are understanding the significance of a healthy lifestyle and sustainable living. And thus, we have joined forces with Pankaj Anand, founder of Santa Kidz to launch our health supplements products in India and six other countries under the brand name of Oloo Global. Similarly, we have already stepped into the futuristic E-vehicle & solar solutions segments. With multiple opportunities coming up, Neerja Software and Oloo Global will be a vital force towards success in the coming time.



Naveen Sharma - Director (Neerja Softwares)

“EdTech players could partner with the universities to expand reach and offer a tech-enabled learning environment.” -Mr. Anish Srikrishna



Anish Srikrishna, CEO
(The Professional Learning)

IT Voice: - How has TPL evolved during the pandemic?

Mr. Anish Srikrishna:- TPL is an established education company that is committed to fulfilling our learners' needs. In the pre-pandemic period, we did this via a hybrid model of learning and teaching involving both face-to-face and tech-enabled teaching and learning. During the last 12 months' enforced lockdown, we had to quickly adapt the cohort learning model to a completely online teaching model. There was also an acceleration of our overall digital transformation efforts and this, in turn, had a salutary effect across the company's operations. To-

day, we have a situation where our sales, marketing, operations, teachers, and content creators work seamlessly from their homes. We collaborate through various online platforms like Zoom, Microsoft Teams, modern LMS for our students, and so on. Life has changed for all of our 300+ employees at TPL, and I would say it has changed predominantly for the better.

IT Voice: - How do you see the EdTech sector in India in 2021 and ahead?

Mr. Anish Srikrishna: - I don't look at the EdTech sector as one homogenous entity; rather, I see the edtech developments in each education segment as a reflection of the developments in the broader education scenario. For instance, take a look at the regulatory environment – there are fundamental differences in K-12, Higher Education, Vocational Education, and Executive Education. Today, most EdTech innovations in the K-12 space are taking place in the non-regulated area of supplementary tuitions and test prep and not so much in core areas.

In the higher education space, we now expect to see more activity around regulated programs in the wake of the NEP. One significant development during the lockdown has

been the government granting permission to certain universities and colleges to offer their degree programmes online. This action will bring access and affordability to the way higher education is taught and consumed across the country.

The great barrier of enrolling into a physical university, paying high fees and committing 3-4 years of life to a degree program can now be brought down. In the online mode, an aspiring student from any corner of the country can enrol for a degree at an affordable price and learn from the convenience of her home while also being able to work and earn a living. This would open the path for them to become skilled and employable, as a degree is pretty much a passport to any white-collar job. EdTech players could partner with the universities to expand reach and offer a tech-enabled learning environment.



TIMES PROFESSIONAL LEARNING

Read the Full Interview at www.it-voice.in

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ACER LAUNCHES NITRO 5 WITH 11TH GEN INTEL(R) CORE™ H-SERIES PROCESSORS

ACER, one of the leading global PC brands, today unveiled its newest gaming laptop Acer Nitro 5 powered by the latest 11th Gen Intel® Core™ H-series processor designed for ultraportable gaming. The new Nitro 5 brings together Thin Bezel design, CoolBoost Technology, industry-leading CPU performance, immersive graphics, amazing AI acceleration, and



best-in-class wired and wireless connectivity to help users focus, create, and connect at new levels.

The laptop features DTS: X® Ultra dual 2W speakers, delivers outstanding audio, powerful graphics performance with NVIDIA GeForce

GTX 1650 graphics, blur-free gameplay with a 144Hz refresh rate, and a 3ms response time to make each experience superior. The best of all is the all-day battery life, feature best-in-class wireless, and wired connectivity with Thunderbolt™ 4 and Killer™ Wi-Fi 6 AX 1650i.

Speaking on the occasion Mr. Sudhir Goel, Chief Business Officer, Acer India, stated, "Acer Nitro series gaming comes with a rich legacy of offering powerful gaming performance and latest technology and patented cooling technology at value price points.

AI-POWERED WASHING MACHINES BY SAMSUNG

Artificial Intelligence is the future! Here is a product that even amateurs can handle easily. Laundry is a segment where most of us find ourselves puzzled as to how much water to use, how much detergent to pour, and or what should be the time of the spin. Now, the South Korean electronics manufacturer Samsung has announced its AI-enabled washing machine for all households. It will use the Hindi and English interfaces for communication and functioning. Amazing? Read along.



The brand new designs are user-friendly with a digital interface. These could be operated by three controls provided. The laundry planner enables the users to schedule the end time of the wash. Laundry Recipe asks for information like color, fabric type, and degree of soiling and then based on the information suggests the recommendations for the optimal wash cycle. Lastly, you don't have to stress yourself about any troubles the washing machine may have. The HomeCare Wizard will help in troubleshooting the potential problems for a quick resolution.

These smart washing machines by Samsung could also be connected with voice assistants like Alexa and or Google Home.

The latest models are given a 5-star energy rating and certification by BEE. Expect lesser power bills as these consume lesser power

REDMI NOTE 10 PRO, THEIR FLAGSHIP

Redmi Note 10 Pro is a flagship smartphone from the Chinese smartphone manufacturer Xiaomi. The phone taut some striking features at a decent price. Xiaomi has been known to provide discreet featured smartphones and this handset is already making a buzz in the smartphone market in India. It was launched in India on the 4th of March 2021.



The display screen has a refresh rate of 120Hz and is easy on the eyes with an SGS Eye Care Display Certification. It is protected by the Corning Gorilla Glass 5 as well.

The pack of four cameras brags of long exposure mode with six effects; moving crowd, oil painting, neon trails, light painting, starry sky, and star trails.

The smart battery comes with a 2 day standby time. Redmi Note 10 Pro also includes a proximity sensor, IR blaster, ambient light sensor, linear vibration motor, gyroscope, accelerometer, and an electronic compass.

The line-up of 21 new models is equipped with AI-powered features. These models are fully automatic and come with front door functionality. You can connect the washing machine with other Samsung smart devices like smartphones, smart TVs. AI used in these Samsung washing machines learn about the usage patterns and saves time by suggesting to the user

"Samsung claims that the washing machines will save time by 50%, power, and provide an extra 45% fabric cover using the EcoBubble and QuickDrive technology."

Read More at www.itvoice.in

MEDIATEK AND SAMSUNG INTRODUCES WORLD'S FIRST WI-FI 6E ENABLED 8K TV

MediaTek and Samsung today introduced the world's first 8K QLED TV – the flagship Samsung 8K QLED Y21 – powered by MediaTek's MT7921AU, delivering the fastest connectivity experiences through its cutting-edge Wi-Fi 6E capabilities. Following their announcement of the world's first Wi-Fi 6 enabled 8K TV in 2020, MediaTek and Samsung are yet again driving the smart TV industry forward with the latest connectivity features and premium 8K imaging for unparal-

leled home entertainment experiences.

MT7921AU supports Wi-Fi 6E and Bluetooth 5.2 from a single, highly integrated platform. With 1.2 Gbps speeds, consumers can enjoy smoother streaming and gaming for uninterrupted entertainment. Wi-Fi 6E is designed to make use of uncongested bandwidth in the 6GHz spectrum and offers numerous advantages over previous Wi-Fi generations, such as significantly faster multi-gigabit data throughput, lower latencies and the latest security and connection reliability features.

“Consumers depend on fast, reliable connectivity, whether they are using their TV for streaming, gaming

or following along with workouts. Our collaboration with Samsung has been instrumental in bringing consumers the latest smart TV technology to support these uses and beyond,” said Jerry Yu, MediaTek Corporate Senior Vice President and General Manager of the Intelligent Devices Business Group. “With our advanced connectivity technologies – including WiFi-6 support – integrated into Samsung's 8K TVs, we're driving the premium smart TV



APPLE'S SPRING LOADED EVENT CATCH UP, SOME NEW PRODUCTS



Apple just wrapped up their Spring event a few days ago with couple of new exciting products and news. Well, they started off with the Apple's 2030 plan, and everything 100% carbon neutral by then.

Later then they introduced Apple Card Family feature that lets you maintain other card in your family too. Along with that they introduced a digital subscription plan for their podcasts. A new iPhone color for the spring season, and purple is the colour.



Then the long awaited AirTags came into the play, a \$29 small circular shaped device that helps you track your belongings through your iPhone. This feature is compatible with Apple iPhone with U1 chip and iOS 14.5. And if you are within bluetooth range, it gives you a navigation to exactly where it is.

A new refreshed Apple TV 4K also arrived the industry with giving importance to Apple TV App and it shows. The Apple TV 4K comes with higher refresh rate and 4K compatibility for more and more TVs.

iMac has arrived the market too, and now with the M1 chip, the lightest and thinnest iMac they have ever created, and indeed the most powerful and power efficient too. The range of colours in the iMac are brighter than ever. Yes, you read that right

TOP PRODUCTS OF THE MONTH

the range of colours in an iMac. They have put the best quality camera than ever before and same for the speakers too. The new iMac has a 24-inch 4.5K display. The new iMac starts at \$1299 for the base model, and you can upgrade an iMac to 16GB Unified Memory and 2TB SSD.

And well, a Touch ID in a Magic Keyboard too, compatible with all the M1 Macs.

And at last, with all the dramatic entrance and cinematography, they have finally showcased their new refreshed iPad Pro, and surprisingly with M1 chip inside it too, much powerful than ever before.



Fujitsu and Trend Micro Demonstrate Solution To Secure Private 5G

Fujitsu Limited and Trend Micro Incorporated (TYO: 4704; TSE: 4704), a global cybersecurity leader, have collaborated to focus on the security of private 5G networks. The companies will demonstrate the effectiveness of Trend Micro's security for private 5G using a simulated smart factory environment and an operational Fujitsu environment prior to the product's public availability.

Private 5G network technology will be the catalyst for true smart factories globally. Connectivity and automation will link factory devices and business applications, improving production capabilities

and overall factory performance. However, the expanded IT infrastructure within operational technology (OT) environments can lead to exposed risk for cyberattacks. There is an urgent need to implement cybersecurity measures to secure private 5G networks to protect against potential attacks.

Fujitsu and Trend Micro have incorporated Trend Micro's 5G security solution into a private 5G system that simulates an actual smart factory environment equipped with high-definition monitoring cameras and automatic guided vehicles (AGV) at the FUJITSU Collaboration Lab in Kawasaki, Japan. This environment was used to visualize and centrally manage the status and security of systems, as well as correlate threat detection and prevention data from the devices and network.



The security solution, Trend Micro Mobile Network Security, leverages embedded endpoint security within the IoT device's SIM card and network security running on private 5G system. Benefits of the product include:

- Detect and protect against threats at the private 5G network.
- Authenticate devices trying to connect to the 5G network
- Block unauthorized communication in real time.

This demonstration shows how the Trend Micro solution protects smart factories from internal threats, such as unauthorized or malware-infected devices, as well as external threats attempting to enter the factory through the 5G network.



The newest to join the elite league of 1.5°C supply chain leaders is Tech Mahindra of India. The company announced on Thursday that it has joined the league in order to work on reducing greenhouse gas emissions and support its supply chain partners to reduce the emissions. Major organizations like IKEA, Ericsson are already members of the group.

It is a group of multinational corporations, who have joined hands with an aim to curb emissions, support their supply chain partners to the same, build a flexible business

ecosystem, and have a competitive advantage.

Its founding members include corporate-like Telia, BT Group Unilever, IKEA, etc. The group is supported by the International Chamber of Commerce and We Mean Business Coalition as well. The prime focus of the league members is to help each other support the small and medium-sized enterprises in accordance with the science.

"By joining the 1.5°C Supply Chain Leaders we are committing to reducing our greenhouse gas emissions across our full value chain in line with the 1.5°C ambition – and to urge our suppliers to do the same. This is a crucial part of decarbonizing our full value chain and to reach our climate targets," – Sandeep Chandna, Tech Mahindra's Chief Sustainability Officer.

The press release by Tech Mahin-

Tech Mahindra Joins 1.5°C Supply Chain League On World

dra narrated, "By joining the 1.5°C Supply Chain Leaders, the company is trying to encourage the small and medium-sized suppliers also to make the SME Climate Commitment through the SME Climate Hub."

Head of Exponential Roadmap Initiative Johan Falk said on the occasion, "We need to jumpstart the first halving of emissions – and without addressing the full value chain this will be impossible. Collaboration is crucial for large corporations to halve emissions in their supply chains towards net zero, whilst also presenting a significant opportunity to advance its position in what will become the next generation of sustainable value chains."

Airtel expands Green Energy footprint

As part of its mission to rapidly grow its green energy footprint, Bharti Airtel ("Airtel"), India's premier digital communications solutions provider, has commissioned a 14 MWp captive solar power plant to meet the energy requirements of its core and edge data centres in Uttar Pradesh.

The facility in Tilhar (Shahjahanpur, U.P.) is the first of the two solar plants being set up by Airtel in partnership with AMP Energy. The second plant at Begampur, is expected to go LIVE in the next

quarter. This will provide a major boost to Airtel's initiatives to reduce its carbon footprint. Airtel had acquired 26% equity stake in AMP Solar Evolution as part of its commitment to green energy-based solutions.

Data Centres, which play a key role in the digital ecosystem, have large power requirements. 'Nxtra by Airtel' currently operates 10 large and 120 edge data centres across India. During FY 2022, it aims to meet over 50% of its power input through renewable energy sources and contribute to Airtel's commitment to reducing its carbon footprint.

Rajesh Tapadia, CEO – Nxtra Data: "As a responsible corporate, green



energy is a top agenda for Airtel. We take pride in being ahead of the curve when it comes to implementing sustainability initiatives. We will continue to accelerate our commitment to reducing our carbon footprint through multiple interventions."

Airtel is aligned to the Paris Climate Accord. It benchmarks against global standards and transparently publishes the progress it makes against the targets it has set itself.

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Tech Mahindra Acquires 100% Stake In DigitalOnUs

In a major announcement today, Tech Mahindra announced that it has acquired a 100% stake in DigitalOnUs. The step is seen in wake of the company's efforts to strengthen cloud-native development, hybrid cloud infrastructure, and SRE (Site Reliability Engineering) automation.

DigitalOnUs is a tech company based in San Jose, California. The hybrid cloud and DevOps services provider have estimated revenue of \$30.6 million by the end of CY2020. Over 380 employees work with the organization.

The acquisition cost is said to be \$120 million (Rs.898 crore). It also includes a retention bonus and an Earnout.

The move will solidify the company's position as a preferred partner of choice for hybrid-cloud digital transformation, developing cutting-edge technologies, providing end-to-end transformation, new-age capabilities including enterprise DevOps and cloud-native development technologies. Tech Mahindra will also acquire the Indian subsidiary of DigitalOnUs – DigitalOps Technology. Simultaneously, Tech Mahindra Americas will take over all the legal entities in the states.

“The acquisition by Tech Mahindra represents an important



step in DigitalOnUs's growth journey as it provides our organization and its people with extensive global reach and customer access to scale and tap into many more significant opportunities. Our team at DigitalOnUs is looking forward to being a part of Tech Mahindra and continuing to offer innovative, agile, and industry-leading services to our current and future customers.” – Suri Chawla, Founder, and CEO, DigitalOnUs.



Ken Xie, Founder, Chairman of the Board, and CEO at Fortinet “When organizations implement telework at scale, cybercriminals leap at the opportunity to exploit the numerous security gaps that arise. Security-driven networking—a strategy that converges networking and security across the connected environment, from the core, into the cloud, and to the branch and remote workers —enables organizations to see and defend today's highly dynamic environments while preserving an

excellent user experience. We are excited to partner with Linksys to deliver enterprise-grade secure, reliable network connectivity for home-based workers.”

Sidney Lu, Chairman and CEO of FIT Hon Teng

“We are pleased to welcome Fortinet as a strategic partner in providing secured connectivity for consumers and remote professionals. The collaboration is a testament to the ongoing strength and reach of the Linksys business. We look forward to leveraging Fortinet's proven cybersecurity expertise to capitalize on new opportunities.”

News Summary

Linksys, a global leader in wireless networking products, a subsidiary of Foxconn Interconnect Technology (6088.HK) (“FIT”) and Fortinet (NASDAQ: FTNT), a global leader

Linksys and Fortinet Announce Strategic Alliance

Enabling Digital Transformation for Small and Medium Businesses in India

in broad, integrated and automated cybersecurity solutions, today announced a strategic alliance with the intent to further secure and optimize the performance and management of home networks in today's work from home environment.

Together, Fortinet, Linksys, and FIT will offer enterprise-grade connectivity and security and unparalleled quality of service to organizations that need to provide seamless and secure connectivity for their employees to efficiently work from home.

Druva Secures \$147 Million Investment to Extend Market Leadership

Druva Inc., the leader in Cloud Data Protection and Management, today announced a \$147 million investment as the company rapidly scales in response to accelerated demand for its platform. The fundraising was led by Caisse de dépôt et placement du Québec (CDPQ), a global investment group, with a significant investment by Neuberger Berman, each of which manages more than \$300 billion in net assets. The round, which raises the company's valuation above \$2 billion, also included participation from existing investors Viking Global Investors and Atreides Management. As or-

ganizations quickly move workloads to cloud environments, adopt SaaS solutions, and combat rising cyber threats, this new investment will fuel the continued expansion of the Druva Cloud Platform to meet today's unprecedented needs, and extend the company's industry leadership as it defines tomorrow's data protection.

Over the last 12 months, enterprises have moved swiftly to adopt cloud solutions to strengthen business resilience, maintain critical business operations, and support hybrid work models.

Based on this demand, Gartner, Inc. forecasts cloud adoption will reach a five-year compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 20.7 percent.* As data grows exponentially in parallel to this new operating model, traditional data protection based on hardware and



software is no longer scalable or cost-effective. Instead, businesses need a new approach that can be deployed from anywhere, protect data across the enterprise, and deliver it securely as a service. Only solutions built natively in the cloud will be able to successfully deliver all this functionality and, 40 percent of organizations will supplement or completely replace traditional backup applications with cloud-based solutions by 2022, according to Gartner, Inc.**

Druva Cloud Platform's customer base has expanded substantially during 2020.



Amazon Web Services (AWS) announced the launch of the Amazon Digital Suite, a curated set of software solutions aimed at enabling India's small and medium businesses (SMBs) to easily digitize their operations and bring their businesses online. Running on AWS, the suite provides a broad selection of business software focused on SMBs from seven AWS Partner Network (APN) Technology Partners in areas such as accounting, customer support, and human resources.

This unique offering is available for purchase exclusively on Amazon.in. The launch of the

Amazon Digital Suite builds on Amazon's commitment to digitize 10 million Indian SMBs by 2025, announced in January 2020.

The Amazon Digital Suite comprises payment and credit solutions from Razorpay; customer support and customer relationship management (CRM) solutions from Freshworks; human resources and payroll management solutions from greytHR; tax compliance and invoicing solutions from ClearTax; accounting and productivity solutions from Zoho; e-commerce and retail order management solutions from Vinculum; and digital ledger and online cataloging solutions from OkCredit. Exclusive benefits to customers purchasing any Amazon Digital Suite product from Amazon.in include no long-term lock-in or usage commitments, and dedicated priority support to

AWS Announces Amazon Digital

Enabling Digital Transformation for Small and Medium Businesses in India

make the technology adoption experience easy and seamless. Prices of the products that are part of the Amazon Digital Suite available on Amazon.in begin at as low as INR 20, and all Amazon Digital Suite software can be purchased individually with discounts of up to 75% off the suggested retail prices. The offering is designed to be easy to use, with customers being able to implement it in a few simple steps. SMB spend on public cloud services is expected to contribute more than 29% of the USD 7.9 billion public cloud services market in India in 2024, according to IDC.





The National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM), today announced the appointment of Ms. Rekha M. Menon, Chairperson and Senior Managing Director at Accenture in India as its Chairperson for 2021-22. Rekha takes on the position from her previous role as Vice-Chairperson, succeeding Mr. UB Pravin Rao, Chief Operating Officer, Infosys, who served as Chairman of NASSCOM for the year 2020-21. NASSCOM also announced the appointment of Mr. Krishnan Ramanujan, President,

and Head of Business & Technology Services, Tata Consultancy Services as their Vice Chairperson for 2021-22. Ms. Menon is the first woman to take on the role of Chairperson for NASSCOM in the association's 30-year history.

Keeping in line with the evolving industry dynamics, the newly appointed leadership along with President Debjani Ghosh will spearhead the industry in its digital transformation journey, with the imperatives of making India a leading hub for digital talent, catalyzing innovation, and developing a favorable policy ecosystem that supports innovation, technology growth and ease of doing business.

Speaking on the occasion, Ms. Rekha M. Menon, Chairperson, NASSCOM, said, "I am honored and humbled by this vote of confidence by the NASSCOM Executive Council at such a crucial time for our industry. The ongoing Covid-19 pandemic continues to

Rekha M Menon Appointed As Chairperson Of NASSCOM For 2021-22

test the resilience of our more than 4 million people, even as it has created new opportunities for growth with technology emerging as the lifeline for societies and economies across the world."

"As we cautiously navigate the pandemic, I look forward to working with the NASSCOM Executive Council and its members to drive our industry's long term growth by augmenting India's position as the digital talent nation for the world, driving people-first innovation, and working with the government to create a conducive policy environment needed for sustainable growth," Ms. Menon added.

Acer Predator Helios 300 gaming laptop Launched in India

The Predator Helios 300 will be available on Acer Exclusive Store, Acer Online Store, and Flipkart starting from 1,19,999 INR.

Acer, the global PC brand today announced the launch of its Predator Helios 300 laptop in India equipped with octa-core Intel® Core™ i7 mobile gaming processors and comes with the latest Nvidia GeForce RTX 30 series GPUs for an outstanding combination of high-performance gaming experience.

Acer's Predator Helios 300 offers the best all-around performance when it comes to gaming. Starting at just Rs. 1,19,999, this

slim gaming dynamo can tackle the most demanding games with ease. The slim form-factor packs a punch under the hood with best-in-class hardware including up to 32GB of DDR4 RAM, a blazing fast upto 240Hz IPS display with 3ms response time for smooth gaming, and 3D simulated surround sound with DTS-X Ultra audio fine-tuning. Laptop offers plenty of high speed storage to fill up from your game library. Also, it comes with proprietary cooling solutions with 4th Gen AeroBlade 3D fans for high-efficient cooling while gaming or for consistent performance under high workload.

Speaking on the launch Sudhir Goel, Chief Business Officer, Acer India said, "Our newest Helios 300 gaming laptops pow-



ered by the NVIDIA RTX 30 series graphics cards are all set to redefine gaming experience in the Indian market. With our latest offering, we aim to elevate their gaming experience further and offer unbeatable features at this price for serious gamers who wants to take their gaming to the next level. The laptop offers the perfect blend of high-performance hardware, beautiful crisp fast refreshing screen.



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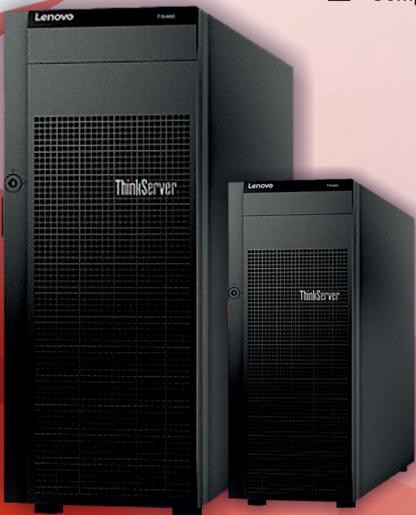


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Amazon Acquires Tech Startup Perpule

Amazon Technologies Inc. has acquired Bengaluru-based tech startup Perpule for 107.6 Crore

Perpule strengthening its hold in the Indian Kirana market.

Amazon Technologies Inc. is a park of e-commerce giant Amazon.com Inc.

Perpule is a tech startup offering cloud-based point-of-sale (PoS) and many other technology-based products.

Perpule is headquartered in Bengaluru, India. The startup was founded by Abhinav Pathak, Saketh BSV, and Yogesh Ghaturlle with a vision to provide a self-check-out solution and solving the

problem of long queues. Other solutions provided by Perpule include next-generation platform-independent PoS for retail outlets, stores, cafes for improving their efficiency. The technology company has managed to get investment from some of the big firms like Kalaari Capital, Prime Ventures, Venture Highway & Raghunandan G.

The early investors of Perpule will leave with four to five times their investment in the startup. The innovative products of the startup help offline stores manage check-out processes and inventory. Amazon spokesperson said, "We are excited to have the Perpule team join us to focus on providing growth opportunities for businesses of all sizes in India while raising the bar of the shopping experience for Indian customers,"

amazon



Perpule's USP 'UltraPoS' has tied up with 10,000 stores in India, UAE, and Southeast Asia. The acquisition will boost Amazon's efforts in pushing its products like 'Smart Stores' and 'Local Shops' programs. As well as will help understanding consumer behavior, demographics, and shopping patterns.

Additional remuneration will be paid by Amazon to the employees of Perpule making the deal worth over 150 crores INR. At the same time, co-founders Abhinav Pathak, Saketh BSV, and Yogesh Ghaturlle may join the Amazon team with most of the employees.

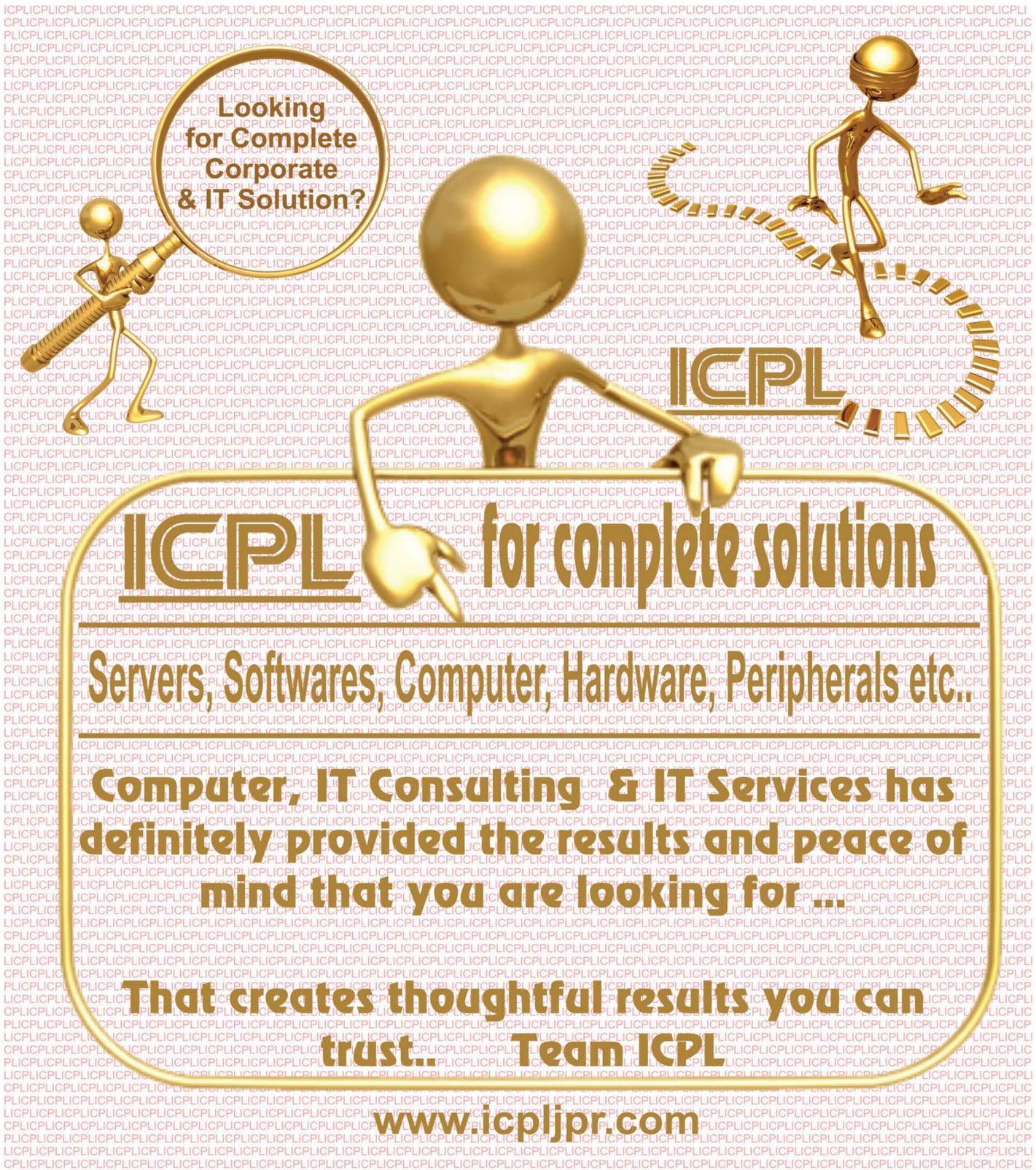


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