

From The Desk Of Editor....



I am pleased to present you the 2nd Issue (Vol - II) of COMPaper.

It is believed that for every one person employed in the information technology (IT) industry, there are four new jobs created. This gives us an idea of how important the sector is for us and the country as a whole.

We must look at it this way: the IT industry revenue of \$60 billion is almost 6 per cent of the GDP, the industry employs 2 million people, which is almost 10 per cent of the entire organized sector employment.

Therefore, when the finance minister says that the sector is important for a knowledge economy, we know what that means.

Having said that, there are three important parameters that help us understand how the IT industry has fared in the budget.

First, boost to the domestic market, second, how much is being invested in infrastructure — ports, airports, roads — and third, taxation and benefits.

On the other side, IT/ITES & BPO industry is disappointed that its demand for extension of the Software Technology Parks of India (STPI) scheme beyond 2009 was ignored in the Union Budget.

We shall be happy to receive your suggestions and contributions for the forthcoming issues of the "COMPaper"

Yours sincerely,

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Internet edition of this issue is available at www.compassindia.com

Send your suggestions, contributions and comments to compaper@compass.co.in



BUDGET

Service tax on customised software : REACTIONS!!



Kris Gopala Krishnan, CEO and Managing Director, Infosys Technologies, feels that the budget has not been positive for the IT industry. Smaller companies should have been given tax relief to counter the impact of appreciating rupee. The increase in excise duty for packaged software will lead to increased piracy.



Ravi Viswanathan, Vice-President, Tata Consultancy Services, says the imposition of service tax of 12 per cent on customised software and higher excise duty on packaged software can lead to increased cost of IT and can slow down IT usage in the domestic sector.



Software giant Microsoft India Chairman Ravi Venkatesan said: "The increase in the excise duty on packaged software and IT software services becoming liable to services tax at 12 per cent will lead to an increase in the cost of software for IT users."



The contribution of IT industry to the buoyant Indian economy did not deserve excise enhancement on packaged software and imposition of service tax on custom software, IDC India Country Manager Kapil Dev Singh said.

Union Budget 2008 : IT Hardware Industry

The Union Budget 2008 generated both ecstasy and disappointment within the IT hardware industry. In the budget as opposed to industry and channel expectations has no special provision made to promote IT by making it cheaper through tax cuts. However, the corporate and industry has a mixed response on this.

Highlights of Budget 2008 : IT Sector:

- | Total plan spending in 2008/09 seen at 2.4 trillion rupees (\$60.3 billion). There will be 100 billion rupees in additional plan funding.
- | 8 %Growth to be maintained
- | Rs 100 crore allocated to Ministry of Science and Technology for National Knowledge Network
- | 1 lakh broadband-enabled common service centres in villages across India
- | 3 IITs in Andhra Pradesh, Bihar and Rajasthan
- | State data centres scheme approved and get Rs 275 crore
- | All knowledge bodies to be connected via broadband
- | Rs 85 crore to building a knowledge society
- | Scholarships for science and research
- | Rs 75 cr for Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship Program
- | 3 IISCs in Bhopal and Trivandrum

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Silence on STPI leaves IT industry dismayed

The Indian IT and ITeS industry across all sectors on Friday felt let down by the national budget for 2008-09, finding little in it to boost growth prospects. The National Association of Software and Services Companies (Nasscom), the leading IT industry lobby, indicated extreme disappoint as Finance Minister P. Chidambaram did not comment on extending the Software Technology Parks of India (STPI) scheme. This was critical for SMEs and BPOs.

The scheme, offering tax sops for the industry, expires March 31, 2009.

"The tax holiday scheme is critical for the growth of small and medium IT companies and the BPO industry. The scheme helped these companies to expand to Tier II and III cities," said a disappointed Nasscom president Som Mittal.

Microsoft Launches India's First E-Commerce Platform

Microsoft has announced the launch of India's first extensible e-Commerce platform, www.buyoriginalms.com for original Microsoft products including Windows, Office, Server, Xbox, games and gaming accessories. With this launch, any existing software reseller, website or blogger can start retailing original Microsoft offerings online within a day. Designed to provide customers with greater ease of access and competitively priced products, the platform is the first of its kind in India for original software and requires no investment from partners.

As more websites, bloggers etc. start selling software using this platform, customers will be able to buy software online very easily through multiple websites. They would also be able to compare various sellers on price and customer satisfaction by visiting www.buyoriginalms.com.

nVidia Introduces APX 2500

nVidia Corporation introduced nVidia APX 2500, applications processor that enables intuitive 3D user interfaces and engaging high-definition video on connected Windows Mobile phones.

The APX 2500 applications processor playbacks 10 hours of 720p HD as well HD camcorder and ultra-high-resolution photo imaging capabilities.

"This is the dawn of the second personal computer revolution," said Jen-Hsun Huang, president and CEO of nVidia. "Technologies are converging in amazing mobile devices that have all of the rich, visual capabilities of a modern PC—from watching movies and making video calls to surfing the web and playing 3D games. The APX 2500 combined with Microsoft Windows Mobile, will make the next generation of smartphones our most personal computer."

**Logitech Launches AudioHub Notebook Speaker System**

Logitech has launched an AudioHub Notebook Speaker System with Integrated USB Hub - delivering exceptional audio in a breakthrough design.

The AudioHub combines a unique 2.1 one-piece speaker system and three integrated Hi-Speed USB ports in a compact design that fits neatly behind most notebooks. Offering notebook users exceptional digital audio, the AudioHub speaker system features an adjustable one-piece, three-chamber speaker system with an integrated subwoofer that creates balanced audio with clear highs and solid lows. A useful mute button turns off the sound without cutting power to the integrated USB hub.

**Kingston DataTraveler Secure - Privacy Edition (8 GB)**

Keep your most sensitive data on Windows-based systems with Kingston's DataTraveler Secure (DTS) USB 2.0 Flash drive. Quickly transfer and safely carry digital files wherever your business takes you. The unique combination of hardware and software based security on the DataTraveler Secure gives you extraordinary access control and encrypted data protection on Windows-based systems. Kingston's DataTraveler Secure Privacy Edition (DTSP) is the world's first USB Flash drive that secures 100 per cent of data on-the-fly via 256-bit hardware-based AES encryption.

Mobile Gaming in India Estimated at \$250 mn by 2010

Indiagames, India's benchmark mobile and online games company, released the first-ever focused research on the Dynamics of the Indian Mobile Gaming Business at the Mobile World Congress in Barcelona.

The study covers various aspects of the Indian mobile gaming industry like user profiles and statistics on operator shares, pricing, download details, top titles, genres, circles and handsets. As a market leader in the space with a dominant share in the industry, Indiagames has published for the first time its unique business insights and shared its estimates of where the mobile games industry is headed over the next three years. Vishal Gondal, Founder and CEO, Indiagames added, "Game revenues are in fact larger than music on GPRS with some operators. A high end user could spend as much as \$20 a month on games – almost 2.5x the average revenue per user in India. We expect the market to grow aggressively in the coming years with our 2010 estimates at around \$250 million"

....Continued from page 1

Union Budget 2008 : IT Hardware Industry

Key Points: 1- Under tax exemptions, certain raw materials used in manufacturing in IT and Electronics hardware industry have been exempted. 2- Customs duty on convergence products will be reduced from 10 percent to 5 percent to establish parity between devices used in IT and communication. 3- CENVAT rate on all good reduced from 16 percent to 14 percent 4- Rs 400 crore has been allocated for NIC. 5- Rs 800 crore for e-governance programme. 6- Rs 100 crore for establishing the National Knowledge Network. 7- Rs 33 crore for cyber security. 8- Rs 170 crore for OFC based network for Defence Services. 9- Rs 275 crore for state data centres.

DESTINATION WEST BENGAL

Bengal SEZ exports up by 99%

Exports from three functional different products SEZs in West Bengal shot up by more than 99 % in 2006-07 over the preceding year. Wipro, one of the IT specific SEZs registered a growth of 166% individually during the same period. While notification has been made for three more IT specific SEZs in the state, 16 more SEZs have received in-principle approval from the Board of Approvals (BoA), Government of India.

Australian Investors high on West Bengal

The Australian High Commissioner in India Mr. John McCarthy expressed his country's confidence in Kolkata and feels that the recent challenges faced by the state will not influence the Australian investment proposal in the city in anyway. Mr. McCarthy said that Australia has full confidence in the good intentions of the state to take forward the international business. Four Australian companies will be opening their offices in Kolkata very soon, he added.

More US concentration in the State

Kolkata will have more commercial service staff to handle the increasing pressure feels Mr. Henry Jardine, the US Consul General in Kolkata. A joint report carried out by PWC and Amcham reveals that 93% of Amcham members who happen to be mostly US companies are planning to expand their businesses with additional investments. All these companies were keen to increase their headcounts rapidly. Mr. Jardine expressed that the state remained investment friendly and no American company has faced any challenge in the state in the recent times.

Bengal IT pavilion bags award

The Advantage Bengal Pavilion was adjudged second best in the States category at the Asia's biggest ICT show in Bangalore. The Pavilion showcased the growth of IT industry in Bengal and it's future potential. The high profile show of Advantage Bengal was led by the IT Minister, the IT Secretary and other high officials from IT Department of Bengal. The Bengal Pavilion was partnered by seven major infrastructure companies who have found more business sense to invest in Kolkata.



"I am very positively impressed. I'm convinced no investor would encounter an atmosphere not conducive to congeniality (in the state)."

**- Richard Stagg,
British High Commissioner**

PC sales in HI 2007-08 exceed 3.28 million units

MAIT, the apex body representing India's IT hardware, training and R&D services sectors, today announced the findings of its Industry Performance Review for the first-half of financial year 2007-08. The total PC sales between April and September 2007, with desktop computers and notebooks taken together, were 3.28 million (32.8 lakh) units, registering a growth of 11 per cent over the same period last fiscal. The buoyant mood in IT consumption was led by significant growth in notebook sales, which grew by 59 per cent, although consumption of desktops grew by only 3 per cent. PC sales are projected to cross 7.25 million (72.5 lakh) units in fiscal 2007-08, given the strong macro-economic conditions and steady buying sentiment in the market, led by demand from various industry verticals.



Commenting on the findings of the study, MAIT Executive Director, Mr Vinnie Mehta said: "Notebooks have emerged as a significant driver for the PC market in India in the first half of 2007-08. Sales of notebooks surpassed 0.68 million (6.8 lakh) units growing 59 per cent over the same period last year, accounting for 21 per cent of the total PC market in the country. Notebooks accounted for less than 3 per cent of the PC market four years ago."

India : Hardware, Software and Services Share of Domestic IT Market, 2006-2011

	2006	2011	CAGR (%) 2006-2011
Hardware (%)	54.9	50.9	18.5
Software (%)	5.9	5.0	54.9
Services (%)	39.3	44.1	23.2
Total ICT Market (\$M)	9,632	24,313	20.4

Source : Gartner (December 2007)

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Facts about Spyware and Malware

Fact 1 : Spyware and Malware can easily be installed on a system without the user's knowledge. In some cases one infection can propagate many more infections by downloading and installing malicious software stealthily in the background.
Basis: It only takes one piece of software specifically designed to download and install other pieces of software to infect your system, after all, the beauty of a computer is that the only limit is the imagination

Fact 2 : Spyware and Malware can slow down your internet connection speed dramatically
Basis: Every piece of information that leaves your computer via the Internet has to use some of your bandwidth. A heavily infected system can send a significant amount of information out at any given time. This seriously limits the availability of bandwidth for legitimate uses and the user suffers a dramatic loss of maximum data transfer. In some cases, malware and spyware can turn your computer into a zombie that relays things like spam and viruses which uses even more system and bandwidth resources. Take a look at some of the major companies advertising campaigns and you will see how important it is to them that users prevent their systems from becoming infected. A surge in network traffic for an ISP can cost them MILLIONS of dollars.

Fact 3 : Spyware and Malware take away precious system resources in your computer, making boot times longer and over all performance sluggish.
Basis: This topic is self explanatory. You only have so many system resources available in your computer to complete tasks. Every time you add another piece of software (good or bad) that requires attention, you are taking away resources from legitimate computer uses.

COMPASS adopts Computer Training Center

COMPASS is pleased to announce adoption of Computer Training Center of Khanpur High School, Bagnan, Distt : Hooghly.

Khanpur High School celebrated its Silver Jubilee on Sunday 9th Jan 2008. On this occasion, the Computer Training Center was inaugurated by COMPASS President Mr Pawan Jajodia. Vice - President Mr Pradeep Biyani, Hony. Secretary Mr Sanjay Chaudhary, Jt. Secretary Mr Pranay Agarwal & Past Secretary Mr G Jayanth were also present on the occasion.

COMPASS has promised full support by way of technical guidance, making availability of resources and placement of trained students. We appreciate efforts put in by the Khanpur High School management and all individuals contributing to the commencement of the center and wish the best.

Compass Indoor Cricket Tournament 2008

Indoor Cricket Tournament was held on 17th Feb.'08 & 24th feb.'08 at Skydome (Indoor Cricket Arena) Space Circle Club under Anip Jajoo, Chairman - Sports Activities, Compass. 8 teams of Compass members participated in the tournament, namely :

- 1) COMPASS X
- 2) COMPUTER GALLERY
- 3) DESTINY INFOTEK LTD.
- 4) EXECUTIVE X
- 5) JALAN INFOTECH
- 6) KOMAL INFOTECH
- 7) PECON INFOTECH
- 8) PRESIDENT X



COMPASS
Click **KET'08**
Cricket Match Among
Compass Members

Winner : JALAN
INFOTECH PVT. LTD

Runners Up : DESTINY
INFOTEK LTD



COMPASS 2007 Exhibition : The Biggest IT Exhibition of Eastern India

The biggest IT Exhibition of Eastern India was held at Netaji Indoor Stadium, Kolkata from 14 to 17th December 2007. It is considered as most popular *IT SHOW of EASTERN INDIA*. Like every year *COMPASS 2007* attracted more than 1,00,000 visitors from Eastern India. Several companies / organizations have participated in the exhibition.

IT Show was inaugurated on 14th Dec '07. Dr. Debesh Das, IT Minister was the chief guest. Mr. Vinnie Mehta, Executive Director MAIT and Mr. Santanu Ghosh, CMD Xenitis - were the guests of honour. Compass 2007 was grand success under the chairmanship of Mr. Arun Jalan.

Glimpses of Compass 2007





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COMPASS 2007 Awards Night :

The Gala Awards Night of COMPASS 2007 was held at Silver Spring Club on Sunday 16th December, 2007. Mr. Siddharth, IT Secy & Mr. Rajesh Khurana, Country Manager, Seagate, India graced the occasion as Chief Guest & Guest of Honour respectively. The following is the list of awardees:

Best Products (by survey)

1.	TFT / LCD Monitor	Samsung
2.	Hard Disk	Seagate
3.	Mother Board	Intel
4.	Keyboard / Mouse	Logitech
5.	UPS	APC
6.	Antivirus	Quick Heal
7.	Desktop PC	Compaq
8.	Laptop / Notebook	Lenovo
9.	Networking Product	D-Link

Popular Distributor

10.	Winner -	Ingram Micro
11.	Runners Up -	Redington India

Most Popular OEM

12.	Winner	Intel
13.	Runners Up	Samsung

Awardees from the Exhibition :

Hardware Below Rs 10000/-

14.	Winner - Saitek Freedom Wireless Speaker	Nouveau Infotech
15.	Runners Up - Scratch Guard Cleaning Products	Jalan Infotech

Hardware Below Rs 10000/-

16.	Winner - Acer-Most Smallest PC	Nimbus Technologies
17.	Runners Up - Ready NAS NU+ 500GB	Netgear Technologies



Glimpses of Compass 2007 - Awards Nite



Lifetime Achievement Award
K.L.Lalani (Lalani Infotech Ltd)

Personality of the year
V.K.Bhandari (Supertron Electronics Ltd.)

Software below Rs 10000/-

18.	Winner - Kaspersky Antivirus	Sea Infonet
19.	Runners Up - Content Management Soln	MM International

Software Above Rs 10000/-

20.	Winner - Fusion F & B Solution	Rance Computers
21.	Runners Up - Stellar Shield with auto data backup	Computers & Networking

Value for Money :

22.	Notebook Key Protector - Nippon Consumable
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Stall Display - Category 1 (Single Stalls)

23.	Winner - Nexus Computers - Re-feel
24.	Runners up - Smooth Agencies Pvt Ltd

Stall Display - Category 2 (2-3 Stalls)

25.	Winner - Jalan Infotech - World Space
26.	Runners up - RPG Cellucom

Stall Display - Category 3 (4 stalls & above + Pavillions)

27.	Winner - Xenitis Infotech Ltd
28.	Runners up - Balaji Solutions - Foxin



Woman Achiever of the year
Veena Jalan (Compu Data Systems)

Compass - Inter School IT Quiz.....

Inter School IT Quiz was organised during COMPASS 2007 IT Show on the 15th & 16th December 2007 at Netaji Indoor Stadium, Kolkata



Category A - Classes 6 to 8 :

Winners :

- Delhi Public School, Ruby Park (Ravi Tripathi & Shreyansh Agarwal)

1st Runner's Up :

- The Pailan World School (Anirban Bose & Aniket Dey)

2nd Runner's Up :

- Mahadevi Birla Girls H.S. School (Rumela Mitra & Baishali Ghosh)

Category B - Classes 9 to 11 :

Winners :

- Don Bosco School, Park Circus (Harshit Rathi & Mainak Ghosh)

1st Runner's Up :

- South Point School (Anshuman Paul & Mayank Singhal)

2nd Runner's Up :

- Don Bosco School, Liluah (Promit Biswas & Sayan Samanta)

During the Compass 2007 exhibition, SEMINARS on the following topics were also organized :

- d Devices for InfoTech users
- d Use of InfoTech for Business - Issues & Solutions
- d Protection Against InfoTech Threats (from pc to cell phones)
- d Application of IT in Surveillance

About 20 schools from Kolkata have participated in the IT Quiz. It was a grand success under the chairmanship of Prakash Agarwal and Quiz mastership of P.K.Sharma. Prizes were sponsored by : | AOC Monitors | Advance Management Systems | Balaji Solutions | Jupiter International | Novo Infotech

Compass Annual Picnic!



Annual Picnic of COMPASS sponsored by DLink was held on 23rd January 2008, at Tikmany Bagan, Basanti Highway, Kolkata. Members alongwith their families enjoyed a full day of fun & frolic.

Welcomes to COMPASS Family. Compass welcomes the following members who recently joined the association :

- (SAVERA MARKETING AGENCY (P). LTD. (INSPAN INFOTECH PVT. LTD. (. CLASSIC COMPUTERS

Airline Operating Systems

If Operating Systems Ran The Airlines

UNIX Airways Everyone brings one piece of the plane along when they come to the airport. They all go out on the runway and put the plane together piece by piece, arguing non-stop about what kind of plane they are supposed to be building.

Air DOS Everybody pushes the airplane until it glides, then they jump on and let the plane coast until it hits the ground again. Then they push again, jump on again, and so on ...

Mac Airlines All the stewards, captains, baggage handlers, and ticket agents look and act exactly the same. Every time you ask questions about details, you are gently but firmly told that you don't need to know, don't want to know, and everything will be done for you without your ever having to know, so just shut up.

Windows Air The terminal is pretty and colorful, with friendly stewards, easy baggage check and boarding, and a smooth take-off. After about 10 minutes in the air, the plane explodes with no warning whatsoever.

Windows NT Air Just like Windows Air, but costs more, uses much bigger planes, and takes out all the other aircraft within a 40-mile radius when it explodes.

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