

# Testing Trials

'We test everything' is the Test Centre's motto, as they set out to prove with the 'exclusive' balloon test

The balloons came as part of the package that contained the Diamond Rio MP3 player. There were 12 balloons in all that were divided into two categories—red coloured ones and white coloured ones.



### Test process

We subjected the balloons to a series of tests that measured the durability and performance features of the balloons. First, using



a stop-clock, we measured the time taken to blow the balloon to its maximum. The height of the fully blown-up balloon was measured from the tip of the knot to the other end. To measure the volume of the air inside the balloon, we used a unique process. The balloon was placed inside a bucket filled to the brim with water. The water displaced was then collected and measured to get the volume of the air inside the balloon. The balloons were then kept aside for three hours to check if any leakage of air occurred.

To measure the durability of the balloons, a needle (0.3 microns) was stuck at a specific point. The effect of this was noted down, and the noise impact if the balloon burst was measured.

### Test results

Of the 12 balloons, three balloons (two white and one red) failed the test immediately due to bursting. It was realised that these balloons were highly sensitive to finger-nails and rings. The fastest time recorded to blow a balloon (white) was 20 seconds, up to a height of three feet.

### Conclusion

The white balloon came out tops due to its durability and elasticity. It could be easily blown and it lasted the longest—all of five days—without bursting. As it is shipped free with the Diamond Rio MP3 player, it's absolute bang for the buck.

## Kudos to the Combatore Team

Coimbatore, known for its cotton mills and the gentle breeze from the Nilgiris, witnessed a little storm recently when a group of seven friends put together their own CHIP stall at the local carnival. For Joshua Remiguis it was a dream come true. The dream of being part of the CHIP family and serving the 'cause'.

When this 20-year-old boarded a train to Mumbai (his first time outside Tamil Nadu), his aim had been to work for the CHIP Multimedia team. After a week at our office and a lot of advice from Ravi Shankar, our Multimedia coordinator, Joshua was convinced that he could make a world of difference to CHIP even from his hometown. Armed with a detailed



action plan for the next three months, jointly prepared by him and Ravi, he left for Coimbatore with a firm resolve—to make CHIP more visible in his hometown.

Within days of reaching Coimbatore Joshua had created a CHIP-Coimbatore e-group and he and his six friends—Herald, Stanley, Xavier Jax, Renald, Felix and Pradeep—had identified and booked a stall at the local carnival, where they put the CHIPware on display.

With more events lined up in the coming months, Joshua and his team are a busy lot these days.

Way to go, guys!

## Negative vibes

The Indiatimes site certainly seems to be slipping into the negative. Even the results of the opinion poll here show negative results. Seems quite a drastic change.

Contributed by Dr Bijlani,  
Via e-mail



## Wedlock or wedlog?

We all know how the Internet has taken over our lives and entwined itself in every aspect of our existence. Well, wedding invitations are the latest to fall prey to the

## CD cetees...

Recently, we received this unusual wedding invitation on a CD-ROM from an IT twosome Vinay and Shalini (whoever they are):

It started complete with head-in-title: "We are surfing life together." Then came what the ad community would call the 'body copy': "As we enter wedlock, we'd love you to log in on Sunday... The password is 'your presence'. The program is -- Mahurtham between... And reception between... Join us for a megabyte. The site is

Cyber-addiction, as is evident from this tidbit that appeared in the *Times of India*.

Contributed by: Kasturi, Bangalore

## Your chance to BACKBYTE!

Highlight the lighter side of computing. Mail your contributions to Backbyte

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TTC Industrial Area, MIDC,

Shirvane, Nerul,

Navi Mumbai 400 706

or send e-mail to

backbyte@chip-india.com

## The Big Names

Murtaza Patel thinks the big companies are just that...big without any real work. So time to change their name. Any takers?

INFOSYS: INFerior Offline SYStems

WIPRO: Weak Input, Poor and Rubbish Output

HCL: Hidden Costs and Losses

TCS: Totally Confusing Solutions

C-DOT: Coffee During Office Timings

HUGHES: Highly Useless Graduates Hired for Eating and Sleeping

IBM: Implicitly Boring Machines

SATYAM: Sad And Tired Yelling Away Madly

HP: Hen Pecked

AT&T: All Troubles and Terrible

DELL: Deplorable Equipment & LackLusture

TISL: Totally Inconsistent Systems Ltd

PSI: Peculiar Symptoms of India

PCL: Poor Computers Ltd

SUN: Surely Useless Novelties

TUL: Troubles Un Limited

CTS: Coffee, Tea and Snacks

ICIM: Impossible Computers In Maintenance

BPL: Below Poverty Line

NIIT: Not Interested in IT

## Readers Rants

### Bug fix-ation



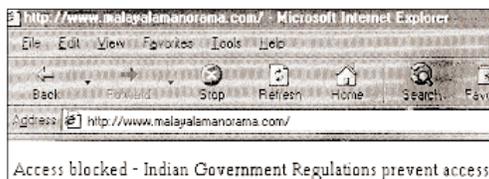
Has the bug caught you yet? If not, then you should probably think of the poor guy in the visual carrying all the 'bugs'.

Contributed by Salil Kapoor, Noida

### Caught in the line of fire

The Indian government seems to have vulgarity in its sights, be it in movies, on TV or on the Net. But it seems to have misfired on this occasion—*Malayalam Manorama* happens to be the number one newspaper of Kerala!

Contributed by: Santosh P.T.



## RETRO

### Punch Cards

The first punch cards, designed by Herman Hollerith in 1890 for the US Census Bureau, was about the same size as a US dollar bill. Why? Because banks at that time kept the money in drawers which had spawned an entire office furniture industry to produce dollar-size filing systems. Obviously, there was no point in making new furniture, so Hollerith designed his punch cards so that they could use the same drawers.

## Saying the truth

They say advertisements are all about marketing hype with no reality. One company decided to tell the truth



in their advertisements. Notice the before and after visuals.

Contributed by Preeti Jaimal

## Become a Certified Children Professional

Besides the usual Web designing, Office Computing and Programming, this particular computer institute in New Delhi seems to be offering certificate courses in (hold your breath) 'Children' and 'Accountants'! Any takers?!!

Contributed by Pauli

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