

MVDIT TECH BOOK February 2010



25th Edition Special



You'll find everything you want to know about the latest gadgets here, From the HD Digital Cameras to the Sleek and stylish tablets! Also our first impressions on Google Buzz.

EDITORIAL

This month is the exam month, yet I've got the news delivered to you at your inboxes.

The February Edition brings a detailed sneak peak on iPad & other exquisit gadgets. Also we bring the first impressions of Google Buzz, two new tech based channels on discovery, and a host of tips. Watch out for the quiz inside, you can win exciting prizes!

Our e-zine was for long waiting to come on Kindle. However, We couldn't just get it on Kindle store for free which we don't want. So I'll be posting the e-pub format for the kindle and other e-book readers! Also we might later make an appearance on Kobo.



The different editions for magazines are available for download at www.mvdit-techbook.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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COVER STORY

Apple iPad



Vidit Bhargava

Lets come to it straight away the product clearly states an "i" in the name, what does that mean? It means its neither an iPhone nor a Macbook its different! Its an innovation! Don't expect it to work in case you're hoping to buy a small laptop. Its not meant to be that (Though, we wanted it!).

Apple iPad is a big iPhone, running an iPhone OS 3.2 with capabilities nearly matching a netbook. Yes at around 20,000 bucks the iPad comes with nearly netbook capabilities, still you like it! Its the feeling which is more than any thing else. What iPad does is everything that an iPod Touch couldn't do, with its small screen interface yet it is not your new third Mac!

You wake up... take a cup of coffee to your dining table, there's something else on the table in a nice case with a half eaten Apple logo on it... You open it, no need of the newspaper mate! It's in there... you skim through the headlines then pick it up, place the cover, keep it in your empty school bag and go to school

-----> In school u open it, read your text book from the shelf and take down notes.----> Back at home it's time to read your copy of Harry Potter, you open the iPad again and read it! Finally you can do the homework with pages and then play your favorite game! All that without any paper work, and without having the hassle to switch on your PC or Mac! The possibilities are endless, only if you understand how to use it!

Coming to the hardware specs, it will be a crime to mention how smooth this thing runs, its faster than a netbook guys! Boasts a 1GHz Apple A4 Processor. It has a ten inch screen and it's .5 inches thick. No USB ports here, surely

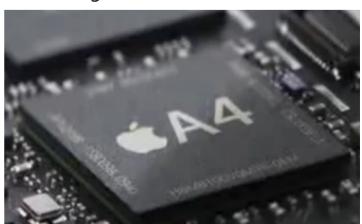


you need to understand what they're making. :)



I'm worried about a few things though. The Multi-Tasking & no - Flash are a bit of a let down but thats it!

ButApple in the past has made its products change and become far better!



Modit Technology Times

23rd January 2010 - Saturday Source: TECHTREE & THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

Pre-Paid Services ban lifted!

Blackberry Hybrid spotted

The ban on the use of prepaid mobile phone subscriptions in Jammu Kashmir has been lifted follow- always in the rumor mills for the past few months. ing a directive by the Home Ministry of India. The ban, as most people might be aware, was imposed last year citing security reasons.

directed to perform stringent identity checks on a potential prepaid subscriber, before issuing a card. Apart from the stricter scrutiny of documents, a limit has also been placed on the number of phones per family. As of now, one family can own up to six mobile phones.

If that wasn't all, operators have also been strictly told to adhere to the Telegraph Act, under which they will need to disconnect services within two hours if the address or any other document supplied by the customer was not found correct - post or when providing connections in bulk.

All these measures are claimed to be in the interest of National Security. The people of Jammu Kashmir will hopefully find the lift of the ban a boon - at the same time, they might be wary of the new norms that have been set in place.

Rokia to Launch new phone!

The revelation came in response to a question by folks over at Pocket Lint during the press meet of the Ovi maps launch on Januray 21. They asked if Nokia was planning to release any new devices soon (a standard question during press meets).

The phone known as the Blackberry Magnum was The device was supposed to be a QWERTY phone like most mainstream BlackBerries - but with a touch sensitive screen. The Magnum, if it ever makes into production would be the first such phone from Black-The lifting of the ban comes with quite a few condi- Berry. The prototype seen in the image shares design tions as well. All mobile phone operators have been cues from the BlackBerry Bold and is actually quite a sleek looker.

New Portable OS by Bangalore Engi-

neering Student
Niket Chandrashekar, a 20-year-old engineering from New Horizon College in Bangalore, has developed a portable Operating System that can be stored and opverification. Mobile operators have also been told to erated on just about any device with a storage option exercise caution whilst issuing a second connection, even a mobile phone. Developed almost entirely using open source tools and with Wine (a Windows emulator for Linux, which allows Windows programs to run on that operating system), this OS is based on the Linux kernel.

> The OS known as LinuXP supports many Windows XP, Vista and 7 applications. It can also recover lost and accidentally deleted files, locate and install drivers for printers and other devices connected to it. The amazing portability of this OS means that you can carry your work along with the OS on pen drives or mobile phones and simply plug it into any PC or laptop to start working from anywhere.

Digital Cameras Sony DSCW350



Sony Redifenes your Camera

Harnessing the remarkable synergy of the blazing fast BIONZ imaging processor and high performance Carl Zeiss® Vario-Tessar Lens Lens, innovative features like Sweep Panorama and many others are made possible. Capture amazing pictures effortlessly with the new Cyber-shot W-series cameras.

Enjoy beautiful panoramic shots by sweeping your camera horizontally to create stunning landscape shots, or vertically to capture tall objects. With horizontal images as wide as 7152 x 1080 and vertical images as tall as 4912 x 1920, be swept away by the amazingly detailed shots you can achieve with Sweep Panorama.

720P HD movie recording

Yes You heard it right! This Camera Priced @ just Rs.12,999 offers you HD 720p recording. Its one of the best things of this cheap and smart deal. A technology that costed 20,000 bucks two months back is now well under our budget.

It has happened with me in the past, the camera is mostly good but the Video Recording is bizzare, this one lives upto my expectations though!

So, here we are, This one is just for you if you want a host of features without shelling much from your pocket. This one's my Pic for the Digital Camera you'll love to buy!

Partial Source: Sony India Partial Source: Vidit Bhargava

ADITYA'S COLUMN

Nokia E-63 Review



Aditya Salapaka

Network: 2G and 3G (with UMTS) Screen: TFT, 16 Million Colors, 320 x 240

Storage Memory: 120MB Internal, 1GB MicroSD

card included, Supports upto 16GB

RAM: 128MB

Processor: ARM 11 369 Mhz Processor Camera: 2MP, 1600 x 1200 resolution

Video Recording: QVGA at 15 frames per second

Wi-Fi: 802.11b/g

Battery: Lithium-Ion 1500 mAh (BP-4L)

Price: Rs 10,500

Design

Once you hold it, you get a nice feeling of power with the E63. The buttons are ergonomically placed, and the spacebar is convenient to use. It also doubles up at a flashlight key! Only problem is the function key and the shift key are at the bottom right corner of the phone, and those with large thumbs will end up pressing both sometimes. The keys are rubbery to feel, which is good. The call buttons are large, and so are the soft keys. The D-pad is also easy to use. Three out of the four one-touch buttons you see can be programmed to do anything (other than cook food), irrespective of what the icons on them suggest. A short press and a long press have different functions. The screen is also quite large with a weird resolution of 320 x 240. This may be a drawback, as you'll find it hard to search for games and themes (speaking of themes, I did find an excellent brushed-metal theme). On the other hand, the screen is very bright, a treat to watch videos on. The keyboard is really well laid out. A few minutes of practice, and you're good to go. A problem I faced was the absence of the _underscore_ key, which should be an important part of any business device because of the plain fact that many e-mail addresses contain underscores. It can only be accessed by the Character key, which spawns open a menu.

Camera

The camera is a huge disappointment. I didn't expect any dSLR-type quality, but the 2 megapixel camera is utterly worthless. It gives mediocre pictures even in very bright sunshine. The flash looks powerful, but the quality of the image itself cannot be improved. Looks like Nokia didn't think that business guys would need a camera. Video recording is pathetic. Lets just not talk about it.

Operating System and Software

The phone runs Nokia's very own Symbian OS (3rd Generation) with Feature Pack 1. Symbian OS seamlessly handles all the applications. Multitasking is an added bonus. There are some problems, though. You cannot disable the camera sounds, and even the flash. There is a "Flash Off" option, but doesn't seem to work. You know Opera Mini? Good. In my E63, a single press of the spacebar triggered of a series of spaces for no clear reason. So I cannot type properly in Opera Mini. The original Symbian browser is pretty good, but nothing can beat Opera Mini's eye candy. I have to, unfortunately, switch to the normal text editing mode. However, typing messages and e-mails in Nokia's inbuilt applications are a treat. Predictive text accurately

guesses which word you're going to type almost every time, saving you much hassle. The spelling correction is superb too, letting you add words to the phone's dictionary. You can even tell the phone to read you messages in your inbox.

Security

Since a business person (or any of us, for that matter) is concerned about privacy, Nokia has done a decent job of it. You can set the time for an automatic keypad lock or even a phone lock. In case of theft (or pesky people), a predefined SMS sent to your phone will lock it immediately, rendering the user unable to access any data at all.

Connectivity

Call connectivity was good. The call quality was not bad at all, though there was initially some lag while answering calls, but its fixed now. WLAN works pretty well. The OS allows you to use a WLAN access point for any application that demands a web connection. Rejoice, Skype customers! And a special pat-in-the-back to those Fring fans too! I still haven't tried 3G, though. You know why.

Music

In one word: disappointing. The music quality is seriously not good at all. Symbian's Music Player tries its best by adding some standard settings such as an equalizer, loudness and stereo widening, but the problem here is the hardware itself. The loudspeaker is not very loud, so you can forget playing your favourite track to your friends and expect them to catch every syllable.

Battery Life

This is the big one. The E63 has a standard Li-Ion 1500 mAh BP-4L battery, which supplements the business phone. Businessmen always on the move will need their device always ready, and the E63 does just that with its battery.

Summing Up

The E63 is an excellent cheap business phone for those who don't want to disconnect from the outside world. An ergonomic keyboard, bright screen, excellent battery life and the good of Symbian help as well.

Social network fanboys will be addicted too. But if you're looking for decent music quality or a decent point-and-shoot camera, avoid.

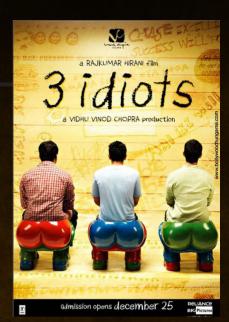
Overall Rating (Out of 10): 8.8/10 (Superb!)

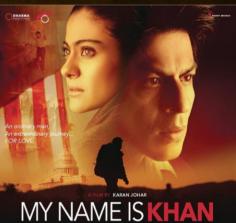
To read the full review goto: www.crystialunicorn. wordpress.com



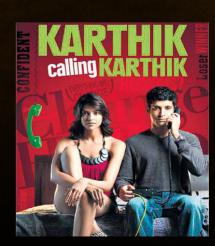
READER'S PLAYLIST MUST BUY THIS MONTH

- 1. Fitoor
- 2. Challeya Fitoor
- 3. Uff Teri Adaa Karthik Calling Karthik
- 4. Hey Ya Karthik Calling Karthik
- 5. Pocket Mein Rocket Hai Rocket Singh
- 6. Gadbadi Hadbadi Rocket Singh
- 7. Karthik Calling Karthik
- 8. Behti Hawa Sa Tha Woh 3 Idiots
- 9. Give Some Sunshine 3 Idiots
- 10. Sajda My Name is Khan
- 11. Pankhon Ko -Rocket Singh
- 12. Noor-E-Khooda My Name is Khan
- 13. Jane Nahin Denge 3 Idiots
- 14. Tere Naina My Name Is Khan
- 15. Ibn-E-Batuta Ishqiya









READER'S PLAYLIST MUST BUY THIS MONTH - World

Singles

iTunes

- 1. Imma Be Black Eyed Peas
- 2. Need You Now Lady Antebellum
- 3. Hey, Soul Sister Train
- 4. TiK ToK Ke\$ha
- 5. In My Head Jason Derulo
- 6. BedRock Young Money & Lloyed
- 7. Blah Blah Blah Ke\$ha
- 8. Baby Justin Bieber
- 9. We Are the World 25 for Haiti Artists for Haiti
- 10. Bad Romance Lady GaGa

Albums

- 1. Soldier of Love -Sade
- 2. Need You Now Lady Antebellum
- 3. Wolfgang Amadeus Phoenix Phoenix
- 4. Of Men and Angels The Rocket Summer
- 5. American VI: Ain't No Grave Johnny Cash
- 6. The E.N.D. (The Energy Never Dies) Black Eyed Peas
- 7. Animal Ke\$ha
- 8. The Fame Monster (Deluxe Version) Lady GaGa
- 9. This Addiction (Deluxe Edition) [Bonus Track Version]
- 10. Kris Allen Kris Allen



Google Google Buzz



Vidit Bhargava

After the much anticipated announcement Google states."Its our first step in Social networking arena", Remember the long dead orkut here? Wasn't it from Google? Anyways, this time Google isn't taking any chance, they're doing their new product the Pritam & Microsoft way. Yeah, they're copying features from other SN sites; Twitter and Fb. You ment on others also (Facebook perhaps!). tweet in twitter n do nothing else, same goes So you see they're directly taking stuff from here. You just update your status and wait for other sites. comments. Like in Fb, people like your status Thats not it, sharing videos and photos is also ing people, its successful. Facebook gave us 3rd party apps.

site does, isn't it? Well, yes social networking sites more or less do the same thing but not quite distinctively like buzz does it. You open buzz from your gmail account and you'll find 2 things familiar: One that people are following you and you are following people (taken from twitter, of course) the other being that you can update your status and like or com-

updates, they can even share it, and do stuff. Twitter started the idea for tweets and followprevalent. But just like Twitter, you don't have status updates, like and dislike feature. Today 400 million people use facebook. These sites were unique and they've got their share of You may ask, that's what a social networking credit. Remember, Orkut lost track midway,

just because they tried to pick up stuff from Facebook.

However, Google Buzz is not all about copying, it too has something unique about it. Integration with Gmail brings a lot of attention in many people's inbox. This is an instant hit formula, as there are many people on Gmail who don't know much 'bout social networking, they'll get into it very quickly. We also see a location adding feature in mobiles. Also sharing photos with picasa, videos with youtube, blog posts from blogger and brace yourself, tweets with twitter (Yes, the very thing they've picked up the idea from) are good new options which certainly attract people.

Like many other popular people and companies who extract stuff from the less popular sources (like Pritam takes from Korean songs & Microsoft lifts stuff from Apple), Google too is going the same way. That's unfortunate. However, they're products still be hit, they are popular. Be Unique and innovative Google.

Also, not to forget Facebook is getting old and twitter which is still to be popular amongst the youth & common people (only 140 character tweets).

But the best thing in Buzz lies here, I haven't written a single thing on buzz, but I'm really active on it (Connected Sights).

Buzz is however failing to make a buzz on the web, many have started believing it to be an unsuccesful Google product which falls in the lines of Google Wave. Also, the users aren't too convinced with it, they're really not ready to take any more social networking sites. Its too much perhaps, and all this might just come to an end!

The Youth think it hasn't got the looks and the lack of third party apps also doesn't impress many. But still its better than Orkut, and perhaps can go further!



Tablets

Notion Ink's Adam

Vidit Bhargava

Yesterday's Times of India student edition said allowed "ADAM THE 'iPAD KILLER' MADE IN INDIA". First of all, I don't how will it kill the iPad, before its market release, I really don't know. Yet this product grabs a little more attention, it being made by Indians and running Android OS.

Notion Ink, made by six ex-IITians has designed this one, and the prototype we saw of it in CES 2010 is much different than the one we're seeing at the MWC 2010. Its a different design which now has a rotatable camera. So it makes up for the old badly made prototype. This one is fully functional too.

Equipment wise this device is highly equipped with some sort of power. 3 USB ports, 1 HDMI, Bluetooth + Wifi + 3G, Android, Ubuntu and Chromium OS, a Tegra processor from NVIDIA & a display that has ambient lighting. For once i'm convinced that this has something!

I'm dieing to have a hands on of this one. The software does mesmerize me, not the Android but the Ubuntu one, thats clearly a master stroke. You've also got USB ports, then there is an HDMI also and finally a rotating camera, Awesome!

The most unique part of it is the back track pad, we'll need to figure out how that thing works but as of now we know it works for the little links in browsers.

For now it looks innovative!



Is the Adam just another tablet?

There are a few problems though, for

example the immediate comparison to iPad, its immediate image as an iPad Killer, this dents the whole aim of this project. If you look at it from this angle, it looks like a device intended to copy iPad and add its own techniques to make one of its own & then trying to overpower the iPad with some promotion.

Coming to the Processor, thats a SoC (System on Chip) from NVIDIA; 1GHz of Tegra 2 whose predecessors were used in Smartphones, Multi-media players etc. So, if the Tegra is even slightly less powerful than A4 then it will have problems, problems with multi-tasking and thats what people won't like. Android however might not do multi-tasking but I can vouch for Ubuntu and Chromium doing that.

With a 10.1 inch touch screen we'll have to see whether it does well or not. Remember, most phones have failed when compared to iPhone on the touch screen factor. Just think of beating the screen every time you want to execute a program, its really going to be like beating your old computer to run faster. So thats where I want to see how it does.



MUDIT'S COLUMN

I'll Pay The Price

You switch on your computer. You start a internet browser. It's time to take the daily dose of internet surfing, chatting and some social networking. But imagine if these "free" to access websites switched to become "paid" services. Will you the pay the price? Here's how some of the services may change for the worse!

Facebook: Social Networking @ \$0.99. What's on your mind? Post it down at \$0.99. You were tagged in an album, Mohit likes your post, pay \$0.99. They can keep signing up for the account free though. They may change their tag line on the website to: Worth the price and everyone can join!

Twitter: What are you doing? Tell the world in \$ 3 only.

You Tube: You heard that a sneak peak of a new movie was exclusively available on You Tube. How about if You Tube shows you the 'trailor of the trailor'? Will you pay the price?

GPS with Google Maps: You start to move on the directions calculated. At a point the application asks you, Left or Right? Pay \$2 to know!

Instant Messengers: The Instant time wasters in fact. How about if they become paid? Horrible Idea.

What basically brings me to the point of free and paid online services is realization of the fact of how we use these websites. Google





Maps now routes the directions in India at most places. So nothing but just for fun, let's find the directions between our workplace and home. Or endlessly sit down to watch repeats of a T.V. program on YouTube. If these services would have been paid, we would have perhaps been more sensible in our approach to using these websites. What's your say? Leave your comments or e-mail me at muditbhargava09@gmail.com.:)

Tips & Tricks Run Blocked Sites

Vidit Bhargava

For those who access internet in their schools and universities, they have a major problem, Social Networking sites like Facebook, twitter and cricket score sites are blocked. No they sometimes block the proxies also. So you'd think its vurtually impossible to run them. However its extremely simple and short.

Just Goto the Start Menu > Run (You need to type run in the foot search for vista and 7, to view the application).

Type: cmd (Ms-dos for 95-2000) and click OK.

Note: You cannot ping in the run window, the window will crash instantly.

In the Command Prompt, type "ping facebook.com", you'll recieve a host of outputs which state Pinging...... . Means you're successful!

Note: You can type any website after giving a space to ping.

```
C:\Windows\system32\cmd.exe
Microsoft Windows [Version 6.1.7600]
Copyright (c) 2009 Microsoft Corporation.
                                                                         All rights reserved.
C:\Users\MVDIT>ping facebook.com
Pinging facebook.com [69.63.181.12] with 32 bytes of data:
Reply from 69.63.181.12: bytes=32 time=287ms TTL=240
Reply from 69.63.181.12: bytes=32 time=288ms TTL=240
Reply from 69.63.181.12: bytes=32 time=287ms TTL=240
Reply from 69.63.181.12: bytes=32 time=288ms TTL=240
Ping_statistics for <mark>69.63.181.12</mark>
                                                             , Lost = 0 (0% loss),
       Packets: Sent =
Approximate round trip times in milli-seconds:
      Minimum = 287ms, Maximum = 288ms, Average = 287ms
C:\Users\MUDIT>
```

Notice this yellow highlight, on the no. Note down this no. and write it in your Internet Browser.

This works instantly no, adwares and malwares required, a clean and simple way to run any blocked site from your college hostel or your school's computer lab!

TECH EVENTS

Two New Channels from Discovery

Vidit Bhargava

Being a Tata Sky user, I got the privilege to see the 2 new channels of Discovery Channel; The Discovery Turbo and Discovery Science! Although, It costed me a new add-on package but I'm pretty happy with these channels. While Discovery Turbo talks mostly 'bout cars and bikes and aircrafts, Discovery Science (The Science Channel in the US) does the Science & Technology department. Both are of my interests!

Talking of Discovery Turbo, as I've just started viewing these channels there's particularly one program which I like very much; Wheeler Dealers, which is hosted by Mike Brewer and Edd China. This one is exciting for those junk wars (Discovery Channel program) fans! They take up a working car with gloomy exteriors or interiors and give it a make over.

A Bug for Beetle was the first one which I watched. They had taken up an abandoned almost fully destroyed Beetle from some scrap yard and given it a makeover of a beech car. Yeah, None of Beetle's exterior or interior was left, they scrapped it for some shiny ones. The Only parts left were the main machinery. Next I watched a Mossy Mazda, converted into a stylish racing car. Not much was changed here in terms of appearance but the technical work was awesome!

Wheeler Dealers provides a good amount of technical information as well as a lot of facts we didn't know!

P.S. Can you believe it, Edd China the mechanic in this program has won 4 Guinness Book Records.

Discovery Science is yet to be searched well, I've only seen 2 programs so far, one is something like How we do that, or... I don't remember the name properly but it were good facts and techniques assembled in one program, which proved out to be pretty interesting. The only problem was, the same time Wheeler Dealers was coming & it was far more interesting.

The ads offer something unique here. I saw Buzz Aldrin (for those of you wondering, he is the second man to land on moon), talking 'bout his experiences of that venture. One of the ads also features Dr. Michio Kaku (I'm a fan of his), explaining his concepts of Fusion & one where he tells about the string theory!



Whealer Dealer's a really good program

Apple Corner

Five Best Apps on iPhone

1. Stanza - eBooks - Free - ****

Can't wait for the iBookstore to come on iPad, here's this one always, They give you access to the e-books you download. So your, Harry Potter on your computer can be read just like a book on the iPhone!

2.Brain Challenge Lite - Free - ****

Know how much brains do you have and all that on your phone. Its great free and paid app, you'll find it fun! but the lite version is trial and you may not be able to use it forever!

3. Jewel Quest Deluxe - \$0.99 & Free - ***

I've played it on my Sony phone, it's great and addictive, this one though is the touch version. This one is for the Indian Quest. Good one, but its quite short and doesn't compete the mobile version that well. Still I like it!

4. Mental Notes - Free - ***

Its not Quite Mental as you may think it is but its really nice, you can make notes on your handwriting, you can click photos for the note. And you can always make notes through keyboard!

5. ESPN Score Center - Free - ***

Launched last year it was one of the most useless score apps on the iPhone. You had to scroll through a heave of pages only to find a very short scorecard which wasn't enough. But by various updates, They've made Push Notifications come in which gives it a big boost. Then they have a better detailed scorecard. But still the notification takes a little more battery!

WIN PRIZES

MVDIT QUIZ

MVDIT QUIZ

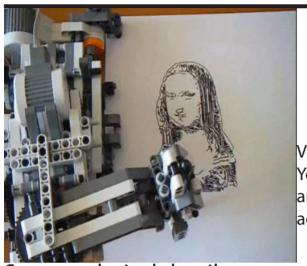
- Q1. Identify the person in this picture:
- Q2. Who are the founders of Notion Ink?
- Q3. Name three major HTML 4 commands disabled in HTML5.
- Q4. Relate Apple and Kodak (Manufacture)
- Q5. Identify the device in this picture





The one who answers all the questions wins the quiz and is eligible for an exciting prize (We won't leak it just now!). This quiz is pretty tough though, but you still stand a chance. There is something hidden on the World Wide Web, you'll nead to rattle your brains to answer this one!

MVDIT ROBO-CLUB



NXT Potrayer Robot NXTfied Theater

By: Youtube user: Mentulatus

Rating:

Vidit Bhargava

You really cannot believe this, NXT ROBOT Plotting and painting a potrait of Mona Lisa and that too very acurately! Its awesome!

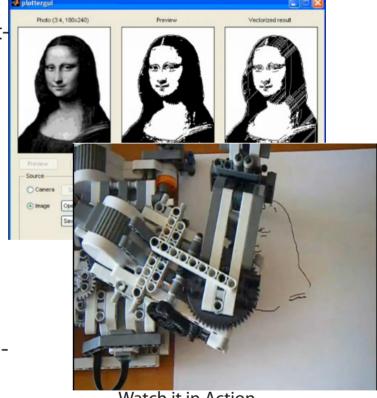
Some technical details:

This robot draws portraits, elaborating photos and images.

The software on the PC is developed under MATLAB®, following the ideas of Claude Baumann and his students.

The hardware is LEGO MIND-STORMS NXT® and a soft tip pen.

This is one though, tough but comes as a really good utility I wonder what more can a robotics kit do!



Watch it in Action
www. mvdittechbook.co.nr > MVDIT ROBO
CLUB

Views by youtuber: Mentulatus