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Not just magnitude, but direction also!

VECTOR

In association with **DNA**

Reader Engagement
Initiative

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Vidyalandkar on the front foot with iPad initiative

The Vidyalandkar Group proved yet again that it is a cut above the rest when it comes to providing an outstanding educational experience to its students. Marching ahead in tune with the times on its continuous drive towards excellence, on February 12, 2013 Vidyalandkar Institute of Technology became a part of the exclusive league of Institutes which have initiated a 1:1 iPad learning initiative for their students. Every First Year student in the Information Technology Department was given an Apple iPad 2 to help them bolster their academic efforts and to help galvanize a change in the way students approach their studies.

Today's institutes focus on generating individuals capable of navigating the ever fluid technological landscape. Students need to have the ability to adapt to different scenarios; they also need to be capable of providing solutions in uncharted domains. It may be hackneyed but the saying, "Don't help a student learn; help him learn how to learn" has never been truer. Students, on their part, are demanding changes too. We may call them screen-agers but they are unlikely to read drab textual course material off their tablets and laptops. They implore us to provide them with stimulating interactive, content that engages them and increases their inquisitiveness. Digital course material has the dexterity to ceaselessly transform and in this sense tablets hold the potential to academically recharge and rejuvenate institutes of learning.

Rigid teaching learning systems deprive students of the diversity, depth and interconnectedness of knowledge, which they ought to nurture. Course content and information used to be accessed linearly. Page by page; chapter by chapter a student would consume an entire book. Concepts like cross referencing related topics and doing extensive background research were lost on him. Today all data is consumed in a random access manner, and this holds true even is the case of today's students. Avenues like MIT OCW, Khan Academy and even sites like YouTube have opened up to provide quick answers in an engaging and yet comprehensive manner. The fastest way to bring this form of information retrieval into the classroom is through the use of digital devices like tablets.

This infrastructure was not simply purchased and pushed into the classrooms. The project took more than two months to plan. The 'iPad Initiative' team, in consultation with the Management, the Director and the Principal of the Institute, decided a basic outline of how they would like this technology to be put to use. During this phase members of the faculty were also asked as to how they would like to leverage this technology. With the help of these insights an application was developed specifically catering to the needs of the Institute.

Simultaneously, faculty members across departments worked tirelessly to generate new content for the iPads. This involved creating inter-



active elements, providing historical context wherever possible and creating a large number of educational videos and animations. In the run up to the release students were asked - "How would you use the iPad to improve your learning process?" This pre-release student feedback provided a great deal of insight into the student's expectations of the project and this was duly incorporated in both content generation and application development.

Members of the faculty were subsequently trained in using the iPads for education. This was done because it was recognized that the onus of the success of the project rests on their support

and their encouragement to students to correctly utilise use their iPads for academic purposes. A great deal of research was conducted and case studies were reviewed about other institutes that had launched similar initiatives.

Application developed for Institute content Deployment.

Through the iPads a large number of open source content can be viewed from various sites. Paid text books and revision notes can also be obtained through in-app purchases. However for deploying the institutes content to the student's iPads a special application was developed. A profile was created for each student, which will be used by him throughout his stay in the Institute. As the student progresses along the semesters, the appropriate books and content will automatically be pushed onto his iPad. This application has all the features present in the native eBook reader 'iBooks' and also a number of other additional functionalities to help the student study with ease. Note taking, highlighting, adding annotations, web links, videos and images is possible. Also sharing all these notes with one's peers is enabled. This allows collaborative learning; not only between the faculty and the students but amongst the students themselves.

The project is already a month in, post deployment. The rest of the semester and the subsequent exams will truly reveal how helpful the iPads have been in enhancing learning.

- Aman Mahadeshwar, Lecturer, VIT

Hello Readers,

When you curl up with a good book, what is your reading style - do you read the lines, read between the lines or read beyond the lines? Edmund Burke says, "To read without reflecting is like eating without digesting." While you chew on this, do mail in your articles and poems, and feedback, as always, on vector@vidyalankar.org

VIDYALANKAR ACHIEVERS

Congratulations!

S.Y. Diploma Sem. III



Aishwarya Sawant



Maths III

EE



Vidyalandkar

Congratulations!

B.Sc. IT Sem V (Oct. 2012)

Advanced Java 85/100
Joshi Nishu

Network Security 83/100
Anagha Bhatte

ASP.NET 83/100
Ruchita Desai

Get The Best
A Constant Scoring Will Even During Engineering

Congratulations!

F.Y. Diploma Sem I (Dec. 2012)

Maths 100/100

Hitesh Mistry

Inspired learning with an iPad

An apple a day keeps the doctor away. However, a certain 'Apple' may now just help you become a doctor. And not just a doctor but possibly an engineer, or a physicist, or a photographer or even a bass droppin' DJ! The iPad has revolutionised the face of technology in today's world. It is no longer viewed as a device to just surf the web on the go, or FaceTime with your friends, or knock down some ugly pigs with angrily cute birds. The iPad has come a long, long way since its advent in 2010. The fact that the computing giant Apple has already sold over 22.9 million devices this year itself, speaks volumes about the potential of this marvelous device.

And they're now here in Vidyalankar Institute of Technology. So how to leverage the best from an iPad and make it a valuable educational tool in a professional institution like ours? How could we put this little slate to good use so that it gives budding engineers like us the edge to push ahead of all our peers? Here's a list of a few features and really cool apps which could just hold the key to influencing the answers to the questions formerly stated.

iTunes U

The first tool available on an iPad is Apple's very own genius solution to educational content distribution - iTunes U. It is a service that is created to manage, distribute and control access to educational audio and video content and PDF files for students either within a college as well as globally on the web.

The main advantage over other tools currently available is the integration with the iTunes infrastructure end-to-end where authentication is handled by the college, who can have visitors to login using accounts specific to that institution. Universities like MIT, Yale, Princeton, Oxford are already using it for a few of their courses and even share certain courses for everyone else.

Each professor, after creating a profile, can create their own courses, with an outline, description and add notes or material along the way. Access to this course can be controlled by the professor. Each time any new content, e.g. an assignment, is added, all the subscribed students are notified immediately. The students can complete their assignments and then report it to the professor using the iTunes U app on their iPads. Material including texts can be added and directly linked to iBooks for students' reading.



The best part about this is that iTunes U is absolutely free for anyone to download and use. It syncs perfectly across all your devices - iPad, iPhone or a Mac and via iTunes on your PC.

Other Apps that can be used in education:

iStudiez Pro
A wonderful app for every student. It has great features like a 'smart summary' that sums up all the events for the current day, 'schedule planner' to plan and manage courses and classes (including locations like classrooms or labs, grades etc), 'assignments review' to easily manage homework and assignments sorting by date, course and priority along with a well designed 'notification system' so that a student never misses a



modified during the class session. The students can browse the material that a teacher broadcasts during the session. The instructor can control the app screen for both him/herself as well

class or due date for any assignment. The app is a paid app but a free Lite version is available too.

Go Class

Go Class is another app available in two forms - one for the iPad and another for the web. It has uses for both the student as well as instructor. Features useful for instructors include 'lesson planners' - where instructors can string together resources in a lesson plan format along with lecture notes and questions for assessment. These lesson plans can be created and

as the students. Using the 'project' feature, any material can be displayed on a connected projector and allows real time scribbling and annotations. A combination of 'broadcast' and 'scribble' allows a teacher to annotate any material say an image from a text book while delivering a lecture. There are also 'polls' that can be used to engage the students during the course. Using 'student rosters' an instructor can use a CSV file with names, student IDs and emails to create multiple rosters for different classes. Students can 'join a session', 'view broadcasts', 'bookmark' a particular broadcast and 'interact and respond' to the polls or material used by the instructor. This cuts out the dictation of notes as well as use of PPTs to deliver content. The students are engaged and allows for better learning.

There are plenty of apps out there in the iStore and many more will be released before you know it. The fact remains that as time goes on, the principles of education remain the same. There's no school like old school. However the apparatus changes - from blackboards to iPads.

- Rayner Vaz, TE CMPN 1, VIT

Making waves on World Radio Day

To quote Natalie Portman, "I don't love studying. I hate studying. I like learning. Learning is beautiful." When learning happens through innovative means, it is preserved forever and ignites sparks for more learning. February 13 has been declared as World Radio Day by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). On this occasion, Vidyalankar Institute of Technology was privileged to learn something new about this massive medium to promote access to information and freedom of expression over the airwaves.

The event started with an address by Mr. Milind Tadvalkar, director, VDT. Mr. Jayesh Banatawala was the guest speaker for the occasion who not only informed the audience about HAM radio but also demonstrated how to use it. He is an active HAM (VU2IVV) user for the last six years. An amateur radio, also known as HAM radio, is the use of designated radio frequency spectrum for purpose of private recreation, non-commercial exchange of messages, wireless experimentation, self-training and emergency communication.



The session went on for three hours in full enthusiasm. Mr. Jayesh Banatawala shared many insights on HAM lingo, Q-codes, and special activities. It was a very exciting experience



to hear Mr. Banatawala talking to another HAM user from Mahalakshmi, Mumbai.

The event was concluded by a small presentation from VRAC (Vidyalankar Radio Astronomy Club) which gave students an overview of "Radio Astronomy" and its applications.

The event saw enthusiastic participation from more than 200 students; Prof. Seema Shah, principal (Actg); Prof. Ranjana R. Gite, head of Electronics and Telecommunication Department and faculty members of the department.

The 'Harvard Edge' at VIT MMS



As Peter F. Drucker rightly asserts, “Knowledge has to be improved, challenged, and increased constantly, or it vanishes.” Time and again, the department of Management Studies at Vidyalankar Institute of Technology has initiated teaching-learning methodologies that attest its commitment to providing an international edge to its students. The MMS students of VIT have adopted the Harvard methodology of discussing case studies, a participant-centered method wherein students are engaged in a challenging and interactive learning environment.

The questions asked during the discussion generated energetic (but courteous) debates. The group really pried the case open, created an agenda for further studies, and developed a strategy for addressing its own questions. The fresh approach provided them with a weeklong immersion

into case study-focused learning of the best Harvard case studies. Students spent 12 – 15 hours preparing for the individual case by perusing and analyzing real-life case studies. The sessions were guided by seasoned professors including the Head of the Department, Dr. Ankush Sharma, Ms. Smita Mukherjee and Ms. Radhika Joshi who helped students gain critical insights and analytical skills.

Moreover, to foster the group learning experience, students were required to make PowerPoint presentations along with a word document. The entire exercise not only led to terrific brainstorming but also broadened their avenues of thinking. The Harvard program epitomizes the true peer networking experience in an environment that fosters real and robust business growth.

- Amit Pal, First Year MMS, VIT



Therapeutics of vegetable and fruit juices

Fresh fruit and vegetable juices are delicious natural tonics for a glowing skin and overall fitness. They are very nutritious and help in better absorption of essentials vitamins and minerals. Research on fresh food juices suggests that it is the most healthy food supplement.

Digestion of fruits and vegetables juices is less taxing on the digestive organs and helps to fortify the immune system as they provide a natural approach to detox the body without any side effects. They provide a great aid for healthy weight loss regimes as the body loves natural foods. What one needs is a blender and some imagination and a lot of interest to look and feel good too.

The young get carried away with canned juices, iced teas and mocktails which no doubt are very tasty but stealthily let the calories creep into your system even as you are blissfully unaware of its fattening consequences till you notice the jeans being a wee too tight at your waist!

Some health tips

- Raw tomato juice helps in reducing inflammation of

liver. Tomatoes are rich in Vitamin A, calcium, Vitamin C and lycopene – an antioxidant.

- Fresh raw carrot juice is one of the best liver detoxifiers. Carrots are a rich source of antioxidant compounds and also pro-vitamin A carotenes. These promote good vision and help to protect against certain cancers and cardiovascular diseases.
- Raw fruit juices of doodhi, coriander, wheat grass in adequate amounts clear the body of its toxins and wastes.
- Carrot, beet and cucumber juice is a powerful blend, which helps to neutralize stomach acidity and promotes digestion.
- Raw spinach juice helps to detoxify the intestinal tract and soothes inflammation. An iron rich juice, it helps in blood formation. The only deterrent to consuming spinach is the dirt it carries with it. Ensure you thoroughly wash the spinach before use.
- Grapes have natural sugars that help to kick start the day, feeling light and energetic.
- Raw cabbage juice detoxifies the stomach and improves digestive efficiency.

- Choose coconut water, buttermilk, fruit juices over aerated drinks as aerated drinks are high in sugar and consist of only empty calories.

- Yogurt based smoothies help to soothe the inflamed ulcers.

- Always choose unsweetened fresh fruit juices that have no additives and preservatives over synthetic drinks which have no nutrition and are simply loaded with sugar.

- Jayanti Banerjee Das, Vidyalankar



Reaching new heights with VSIT's Verve 2013

The much awaited Verve 2013, VSIT's Annual Day brought in a spirit of festivities on January 30, 2013. Dr Rohini Kelkar, principal, VSIT and Prof. Ashok Sheth, dean, administration, inaugurated the event, which saw classical fusion and solo dance performances, street dances and personality contests. In the group dance competitions Sapphire house bagged top honors. The event also saw a heart-touching performance by NSS volunteers on the theme of women empowerment.



In the much anticipated Maay Marathi, which represents the rich heritage and culture of Maharashtra, Ovyageet, Dhangergeet, Malakhamb, Lavani and Gajar were the highlights. Malakhamb, the new entrant at Maay Marathi, swayed the crowds with its sheer display of energy and enthusiasm. Amidst much cheer, Emerald house was adjudged the overall winner.

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What ails Indian sports?

A major portion of the most intellectual minds in the international cranial orbit are Indians. India is a country with more than a billion people and we still struggle to find people representing the country in sports at the international level.

A great degradation that our country has been subject to during the second half of the twentieth century has been in the field of sports and games. In a major embarrassment for India, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) suspended India after refusing to recognise the results of Indian Olympic Association (IOA) elections held recently, which led to a tainted official being named as its new secretary general, because of government interference.

An Olympic ban means an effective end to funding from the IOC. No officials from that association can attend meetings and athletes of a banned nation cannot compete at the Games under their country's flag. What a fall from grace!

There are various factors ailing Indian sports. The root of this problem is the typical Indian parents' mentality. Most parents do not encourage children to take up sports as a career because they do not see a future.

Sport is always considered as an extra-curricular activity and not as a mainstream career option. It is a career where retirement occurs very soon. Indian sportsmen do not make enough money to consider sport as a career. Apart from a few tennis players and the international cricketers, no one makes enough money to sustain a decent life.

The poor state of our country's economy is one of the main factors affecting Indian sports. We cannot spot, nourish and nurture talent even in the initial stages. Sporting facilities in India are either lacking or are sub-standard.

With deficiencies in facilities, any sport will struggle to produce top quality sportspersons. Facilities not only include equipment and arena, but also gymnasiums, access to health facilities, sports medicine and education and a heap of other para-sporting facilities.

Coaching is another area where we are lacking. This is why we see the likes of Mahesh Bhupathi and Sania Mirza train in Europe and US. With limited funds, a sportsperson cannot go very far.

Sportspersons not only need to know their trade but they also have to travel abroad, have access to the best of facilities; all of which comes at a very high cost.

The sports administration in our country is highly politicized. With such administration and a mere power game, all resources are concentrated in retaining power rather than being employed in planning for the betterment of the game.

The media in India is very immature and paints a coloured picture always. It's only our cricketers and good looking sportswomen who manage to attract the corporates with their brand power. Certain sports are covered more than others and certain people are covered more than others. The media also creates

a hype of small achievements thereby creating an opinion that all has been achieved and that leaves very less for motivation.

Encouraging a good prospect is different from hailing a prospect and spoiling him/her. Fans are very limited in their outlook towards sport. Apart from cricket and a few others, no sport is actually followed by a majority of the people. Fans are an important faction of the sports network and they have to play a huge role in supporting sportspersons.

It is said that gold medals aren't really made of gold. They're made of sweat, determination, and a hard-to-find alloy called guts. Many of the factors mentioned above are part of a vicious circle and this circle needs to be broken at the earliest if India has to have representatives at the highest level in sports.

There is absolutely no dearth of sporting talent in across the length and breadth of the country; a bit of resolve from every quarter and it is possible.

—Chaitra Yangandul from FE Comps 1, VIT



Bored? Go for Go!

Go (meaning: "encircling game") is a board game for two players that originated in China more than 2,500 years ago. According to chess master Emanuel Lasker, "The rules of Go are so elegant, organic, and rigorously logical that if intelligent life forms exist elsewhere in the universe, they almost certainly play Go."

The two players alternately place black and white playing pieces, called "stones", on the vacant intersections (called "points") of a grid of 19x19 lines (beginners often play on smaller 9x9 and 13x13 boards). The object of the game is to use one's stones to surround a larger total area of the board than the opponent. Once placed on the board, stones may not be moved, but stones are removed from the board if captured. When a game concludes, the controlled points (territory) are counted along with captured stones to determine who has more points.

A basic principle of Go is that stones must have at least one "liberty" to remain on the board. "A liberty" is an open "point" (intersection) next to a stone. An enclosed liberty (or liberties) is called an "eye" and a group of stones with at least two separate eyes is said to be unconditionally "alive". Such groups cannot be captured, even if surrounded. "Dead" stones are stones that are surrounded and in groups with poor shape (one or no eyes), and thus cannot resist eventual capture.

The game ends when both players pass, and players pass when there are no more profitable moves to be made. The game is then scored: The player with the



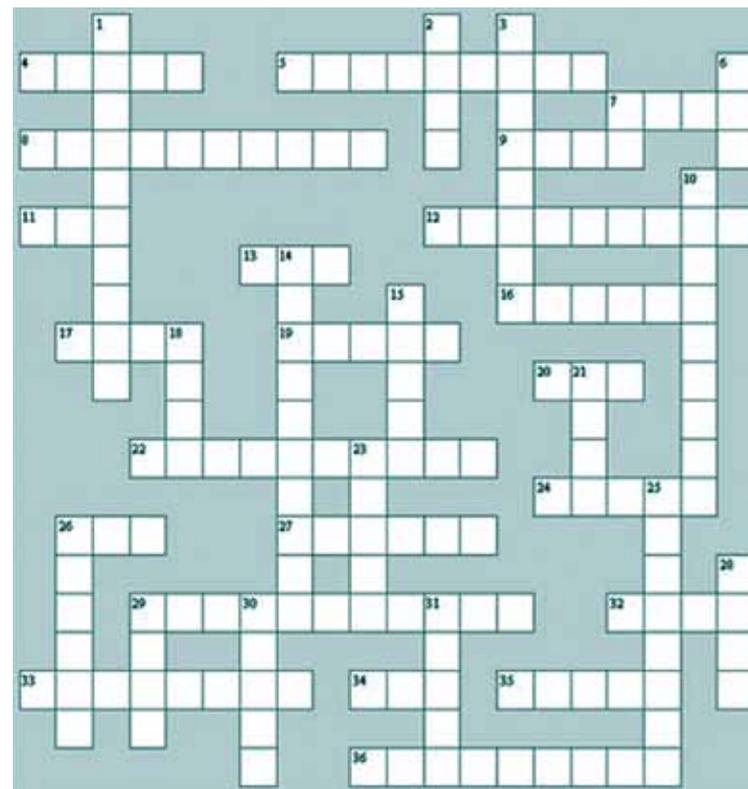
greater number of controlled (surrounded) points, factoring in the number of captured stones, wins the game. Games may also be won by resignation, for example if a player has lost a large group of stones.

Go is also played online. An abundance of software is available to support players of the game. Internet-based Go servers allow access to competition with players all over the world, for real-time and turn-based games. Such servers also allow easy access to professional teaching, with both teaching games and interactive game review being possible.

Thus, while not well-known in many countries, this benign sport dominates the field of indoor mind games.

—Yash Rao, FE ET 1, VIT

Technical crossword



Across

4. Glimpse of light
5. Physician on call
7. All hail the king
8. The God of structures
9. Quick and collective
11. Tabling the corpus, in short
12. Sounds like livestock gathered to draw
13. Suitcase for any platform
16. Flight's delayed because of IT
17. Peg it with a jay
19. The fellow sees to it
20. What are chums for if not to aid
22. Homer did not need one
24. Smoke signals in the battle
26. Your own tags
27. Make sense of babel
29. Spinner of fantasies
32. This was what was there in the beginning
33. Wander around with a camera in Asia

Down

1. Coffee and cool mouseovers
2. Lay out your X-pages
3. The spider weaves
6. Unvaryingly find a resource
7. Customer touchpoint, in short
10. Enchant and educate
14. Doc gets moving
15. The town red?
18. Of antelopes handling pictures
21. Mark them up
23. The very picture
25. Sounds like a helpful alien
26. Heavy duty rock
28. The series, from start to finish
29. Not about Horn or Lamarck
30. Waterfalls are old hats
31. Of visionary diagrams