

TOGGLE

WEEKEND LIVING IN THE DIGITAL AGE

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END OF AN ERA

Iconic BlackBerry phones no longer work

The once-indispensable classic BlackBerry devices stopped working after 4 January.

The Canadian company has decided to pull the plug on new updates of its operating system, meaning that most BlackBerrys that became synonymous with the emerging mobile digital culture of recent decades will not operate properly after 4 January.

"As of this date, devices running these legacy services and software through either carrier or Wi-Fi connections will no longer reliably function, including for data, phone calls, SMS and emergency



functionality," the company said on its website last month.

The "end-of-life" (EOL) move

impacts BlackBerry 7.1 OS and earlier, BlackBerry 10 software, BlackBerry PlayBook OS 2.1 and earlier versions.

However, devices using Google's Android OS, including the BlackBerry KEY2 released in 2018 and designed by China's TCL Group, would not be affected by the changes, according to the company.

The EOL decision marks the end of an era in mobile telephony, which reached its peak in the late 2000s when BlackBerry met with widespread commercial success, especially among professionals, for its large QWERTY keyboard.

EDITOR'S NOTE

A balancing act

Life does not come with a manual. There are often times we are thrust with a new responsibility with little idea on how to do a good job at it. Especially in young managerial or team leader roles, it is difficult to know exactly how to find the right balance between amiability and productiveness among coworkers.

Check out our Cover Story for know-how on the responsibilities of being a young team leader, and how someone relatively inexperienced in managerial roles can maintain proper workplace dynamics. Don't let societal standards restrict your ambitions. Hard work and perseverance always shines at the end of the day.

As for the other pages, read about the legendary Lancia cars and their history in World Rally Championships in this week's Shift. Our streak of buying guides continues, with the most affordable wireless earphones in the current market listed in Bytes and for Tech Tips, our most recommended tips when buying a new laptop. We also reviewed the new crime mystery show, Only Murders in the Building. As always, something for everyone!

Have a great week everyone. Stay safe.

Shams Rashid Tonmoy
Sub-editor & Feature Writer

Fineanswer launched app for helping study abroad



On 29 December 2021, the local education support platform Fineanswer launched the overseas education app Fineanswer Study Abroad. According to Fineanswer, this app will provide Bangladeshi students who are interested in studying abroad with all the crucial information they might require.

Fineanswer Study Abroad contains 10,000 course details from the top 500 globally ranked universities. Students will also find information regarding visa applications, the latest scholarships and free webinars on higher studies.

The app was created by a team of six students from Jahangirnagar University, with over 50 university students from all over the country contributing as data collectors.

According to Ariful Islam Bhuiyan, CEO and Managing Director of Fineanswer Study Abroad, this app will help remove the information barrier and act as a proper guideline for students attempting to apply abroad for higher studies. The app is currently available in both Google Play Store and Apple App Store.

Netgear launches online store

On 8 January, the US networking hardware company Netgear launched their flagship online store in Bangladesh, netgearstore.com.bd. This website will serve as a retail platform where customers can order Netgear products directly online.

According to Netgear, their online store will support both cash on delivery and credit/debit card purchase options. Local orders will be facilitated by the exclusive distributor of Netgear in Bangladesh, Computer City Technologies Ltd. The website currently offers devices such as WiFi routers, Bluetooth speakers and mobile holders.

The Netgear online store offers two-day shipping within Dhaka and a free consultancy service which will help customers with product selection. When purchasing Netgear products, customers will have the option to add Pro Installation Service for a fixed charge, with which an appointed technician will come to the designated address to install the product.



OPPO to launch new folding phone Find N

OPPO is launching their first foldable flagship phone, Find N. Its frame features a golden folding ratio and a display fold with a buffer-free area. According to OPPO, the crease in the buffer-free area is 80% less noticeable than other foldable devices.

Alongside announcing a new phone, in a signing ceremony on 7 January, Shakib Al Hasan was appointed as the new brand ambassador of OPPO. According to OPPO, this new partnership

falls in line with their idea of 'Inspiration Ahead', pushing the drive towards innovative new technology.

Damon Yang, Managing Director of OPPO Bangladesh, was present during the deal signing held at Bangabandhu International Conference Center (BICC). He said, "I am confident this partnership will promote development and facilitate joint activities and projects between us."

TOGGLE

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Learn, Unlearn and Relearn MANTRA TO SUCCESS

INTERVIEWED BY: SHAHRIAR
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SAMAD CHOUDHURY

In a candid interview with Md. Mueyedur Rahman, Samsung Electronics Bangladesh's General Manager & Head of Business, we take a look at some intriguing details in terms of navigating the challenging corporate world through the lens of a seasoned business leader who is transforming and enhancing the business of arguably the biggest smartphone device company of the world, in Bangladesh. We also learn how he overcame obstacles throughout his career while shifting across various industries and enlightens the next generation of leaders to be successful in the future.



Q. You have been working for more than a decade with sales, marketing plans and strategies, route-to-market segments. What was one of the most challenging phases in your career till now?

For me, a challenge is something that has no fixed rules. When I started my career as an MNC in the FMCG industry, I was sent to a territory where I had to learn the local dialect and practices from scratch to acclimatise myself with the local community. Afterwards, I shifted industries and joined a telecom company which felt like an adrenaline rush for me. The FMCG industry works in one way while the telecom industry works in another way. When I joined Samsung, I had to learn how to work here as well as compete with others and also align with the company goals to cross the hurdles and go beyond my capabilities.

So how I embraced work depended on three transitions- learn, unlearn and relearn. Interestingly, every industry's language was different but the basics were the same. What I had to do was to avoid using any preconceived ideas from one industry and implement it in another industry.

So it is essential to learn, unlearn and relearn to stay really competitive in the job market and add value simultaneously.

Q. What knowledge and skills do young professionals absolutely need during this era to succeed in the workplace?

I don't believe in any hard and fast rules when it comes to succeeding in the workplace. However, based on my personal experience, I believe that whatever work you do, you should do it with passion. It's one thing to get assigned work done while it's another thing to take ownership of the work and get it done to the best of your ability. When you add value on a regular basis, the company you work for will also start recognising your value addition.

Another thing that I personally follow

is the mantra - learn, unlearn, relearn. It is vital to remain a student for a lifetime. This is particularly prevalent when you join a new organisation and will lead you to lose your competitiveness in the long run.

Last but not the least, humbleness is a necessity. While most people have some sort of ambition working for them, it is also vital to remain humble and stay grounded. Hence, you should always be your true self and deliver to your best ability.

Q. What's your take on the importance of mentoring in the workspace? How do you prefer mentoring your team members?

There are two ways in which mentoring can be carried out - organisational as well as personal mentoring. When it comes to the organisation, the first thing our company does is hand-pick the capable and competent youngsters into our teams. Our team is quite small but robust. Their competitive advantage is that they can bring fresh ideas to the table. The employees need to be able to match the global standards while staying competitive and learning fast. We also have our learning platform called Samsung University, where we can take different LinkedIn courses as well as various certification courses from world-renowned universities.

As a team leader, I always try to have a brief weekly coffee meeting at the start of the week to set the tone for the week's agenda and align them with the company priorities. I try to add value to their ideas so that they can disseminate them to their team members. We also have a team meeting at the end of the week to assess our performance for the entire week. Additionally, I assign short assignments to let them add value to the company through innovative ways.

One rule that we have in practice is the 50-30-20 rule. When an assignment or presentation or business case is made, we can use 50% of the components from previously proven cases, 30% from recently concluded campaigns which have room for improvement. 20% of ideas need to be new and innovative every time. This allows youngsters to experience a new dimension of challenges and keeps them motivated to work hard and come up with fresh ideas.

Q. What's your view regarding people not going into stable corporate careers,

rather choosing entrepreneurship as their career path?

I believe that this is an individual choice. If someone can give proper service to an organisation, then that is what they should focus on. However, if their priority is to build something from scratch, then they can venture into the world of entrepreneurship.

When a country's economy prospers, startups play a vital role in this regard. The success and failure of startups will lead to a lengthy discussion and we can never draw a conclusion as to what's the best choice to start your career in. So yes, it is definitely an individual's independent choice as to where they want to build their career.

If someone can learn the fundamentals and processes from an organisation first and then implement those learnings into their own startup, then they can get the best return of investment from their business in the future. There are plenty of examples where entrepreneurs worked in leading organisations successfully and then built their own startups in the country as well.

Q. How do you maintain a work-life balance?

We all know why work-life balance is crucial. From our company's perspective, we believe in nurturing our employees for the long run. When you do an FDR in a bank, you do it for a certain time. Similarly, when you recruit a new employee, if you want to see the employee growing in the long run, then you should nourish and allow them to mature over time before seeking the returns immediately. Here at Samsung, we have our office from 8:30 AM to 5:30 PM with a strict workfree hour-long lunch. This is to ensure that we rejuvenate for the second half of the workday. Another interesting thing is employees are usually not allowed to stay late after office hours. Our office also has an interesting policy which dictates that we cannot take our laptops home after office hours. In the 7 years that I have been working at Samsung, I have received only one or two calls during a weekend; that too for prompt feedback for work-related emergencies.

Hence, I can speak from my personal experience that work-life balance is a shared responsibility and organisations can facilitate that further.

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THE LEGEND OF LANCIA IN WRC

ITMAM BASHAR

Lancia - A company that turned heads and rocked the WRC world, dominating from 1974 to 1994. Who would've thought that the same company that produces only one car in one country nowadays had such a glorious past? The brand that used to be known for making overpowered rally cars full of innovative engineering has turned into rust buckets in the modern day.

We know back in the late 80s and 90s rally racing was at its peak with manufacturers like Toyota, Mazda, BMW, Audi, Mitsubishi, Subaru, Ford, and even Nissan in rally races. The brand that stood out among all these giants was a small Italian company called Lancia. The first successful Lancia was the FWD Fulvia which had been winning every Italian rally race since 1965.



Lancia needed a new model to replace the car, and a designing company called Bertone saw that as a great opportunity, independently building a working design called Stratos HF Zero on a Fulvia chassis. Lancia was interested and told them to build them a car that is strictly for winning rally races. Marcello Gandini, who designed the Lamborghini Countach and the Miura, was working on the Stratos. Lancia soon debuted the new Stratos HF prototype in the 1971 Turin Motorshow. Afterwards, a team led by racer and engineer Mike Parkes spent three years developing, testing and

honing the Stratos prototype.

The Stratos was a small mid-engined RWD car that featured a curb wraparound windshield for maximum aero. Lancia race team director Cesare Fiorio convinced Enzo Ferrari to give them 500 of the 190Hp V6 engines from the Ferrari Dino. The Stratos body was made out of fibreglass and only weighed around 910kg so it moved to 60 mph in 7 seconds. Then in 1973, 492 cars were quickly made, and by 1974 Stratos was ready to enter WRC group 4.

The race-tuned Stratos made between 270Hp to 320Hp which immediately blew the fans and the competition away. Stratos went on to make history by winning three consecutive manufacturing championships in 1974-1976 then still kept on winning rallies till 1981. Before the Stratos, there was no other car ever made to be solely made for Rally racing.

In 1980 Lancia began working with Abarth and Pininfarina to develop the Rally 037 Stradale. This car would be built specifically for the now lawless and infamous WRC Group-B Class. 200 of 037 Stradale models making 210Hp were homologated for the street, a lag-free supercharger was added to the 2-litre inline-four to make 280+Hp for the WRC rally. The engine was placed longitudinally instead of transversely to fit a superior suspension setup, where they used Double wishbones front and rear along with two shocks per side, built on a tube frame with lightweight composite bodywork.

Afterwards, in 1983, there was an all-out fight between RWD 037 and the AWD Quattro, where Audi won five rallies and the Lancia's sports team had the driver's championship won by Walter Rohrl and teammate Markku Alen and Attilio Betteca matched Audi's five wins with 037's completely covering the podiums at two events, leading it to win the Manufacturer's Championship.

Lancia thought that it will be hard to compete with the Quattro AWD system in the future rally races, so came up with their own AWD car, which was none other than the 1980 European car of the year Lancia Delta. It already sold well, but Group-B was popular and Lancia figured that it would sell even more

if it entered Group-B. They turned that family FWD car into the most successful rally car of all time.

In the beginning, they only used Delta's shape and windshield and used an aerodynamically tweaked composite body on a tube space frame and gave the front engine an F1-inspired twin-charged 1.8 litre 4-cylinder mounted in the middle. The supercharger provided the low-end grunt and handed over to the turbo at the higher rpm, with the twin-charged setup improving the torque



across the whole rpm range.

The Rally Lancia Delta S4 made over 500Hp and some of them are said to make over 750Hp which weighed less than 900 kg. They did 0-60 mph in 2.4 seconds and it was converted to AWD with a viscous centre differential and a torque sensory Torsen rear differential for better traction. That set-up meant that the car tended to understeer when going into corners but would quickly switch to oversteer when all the torque went to the rear wheels. It was ridiculously fast in the hands of a capable driver who anticipated this mechanism.

The Delta S4 competed in the World Rally Championship in 1985 and 1986 and won until Group-B was disbanded. The cars were eventually banned from competition by the FIA because of the tragic crash of Toivonen and co-driver Sergio Cresto on the 1986 Tour-de-Corse.

Lancia decisively switched to Group-A and switched the production-based Delta and created the Delta HF 4WD for Group-A. It had a turbocharged 2 litre 4 banger and set-up transversely upfront.

When Group-B was cancelled, other manufacturers didn't have anything in their lineups that were suitable for rally races, giving Lancia a huge advantage over its competitors. Lancia easily won 9 out of 13 rally races and clinched both the 1987 manufacturers and drivers championships.

In 1988, Lancia improved their car with the Delta HF Integrale 8 valve by bumping the power from 165Hp to 185Hp and giving it bigger wheels, brakes, and wheel arches, which soon gave away the Integrale 16 valve a bulged hood and a new cooling system with 200Hp. Lancia made constant improvements on the Delta through to 1993 with the final model Delta Integrale Evoluzione II with 215Hp, which was 15cm wider and made 30% more power



than the original Delta HF.

Lancia Delta rally versions continued to own WRC with the Integrale 8 valve winning 10 out of 11 events in 1988. It was so dominant that it won 46 WRC rallies and six straight championships from 1987 to 1992 - a record that is still to this day unbeaten by any other single model.

The Stratos, 037, and Delta have a total of over 74 victories and 11 championships, making them the most successful manufacturer of rally cars. This was the peak for Lancia. Slowly, most of their 80s Fiat-based production cars rusted away, and since then they have been making disappointing cars and selling rebadged Chrysler 300s and weird Fiat 500s.

This gradual decline in quality and effort established the sad fact that Lancia did not have a bright future. Rally racing also became ridiculously expensive which led to the downfall of the brand. Despite the downs, Lancia will always remain one of the most legendary manufacturers in the rally racing world.

HANDLING WORKPLACE DYNAMICS AS A YOUNG TEAM LEADER

TAHSEEN NOWER PRACHI

Young professionals today are carving out prominent places for themselves in corporate sectors. Gen Z leaders are pushing corporate boundaries, starting from work-life balance to company culture, taking on more leadership roles to steer through these changes.

BEING A YOUNG LEADER
While it's true that opportunities are expanding for today's young professionals, it's not necessarily easier for younger employees to cope with the workplace dynamics. If you are young and in a management position or leading projects with a team, it's normal to worry about being seen as an authority figure by those who report to you. Thus, handling the ever-changing dynamics of your workplace might seem challenging.

As a young manager, you are likely to be in charge of people who have a range of different skills, different possibilities, and different ages. Although the challenges are seemingly endless in a corporate-run environment, the key thing to remember is: you are in this position for a reason! You should always try to turn handicaps into advantages which you can utilise.

Md. Adnan Habib is the Lead of Operations of a Dhaka-based IT company. He started young and is currently in a management position that one would say was 'above his age' ten years ago. But the scene is completely different today. "Sometimes I feel the pressure of working as an

Operational Manager, leading a group of more than 160 people. My team members require assistance in different ways and I must present myself in a friendly manner to establish trust, increase engagement and get the work done in time. I never think of myself as just a leader, but someone who will constantly be active in assisting my teammates", states Habib.

According to Habib, some of the most common adversities a young leader can face are communication-based problems. "When starting, I had to gather and organise my teammates to ensure efficient teamwork and communication. The pandemic slowed things down for us, forcing us to work from home. But constant communication helped us persevere" - he adds.

As a young manager, you might keep questioning your decisions from time to time. You are the leader of a team and there are goals that you must accomplish. Keep in mind that it's okay to feel overwhelmed. You have earned this position because of your strengths and you will shepherd this through as well.

PLAN TO GET THE BEST FROM YOUR TEAM
Being assertive about what you would like to achieve and how you'd like your

team to support those goals is step one on this journey. With a clear set of

initiatives and plans to back them up, you don't need to feel intimidated by anyone or any challenge that might come your way.

By focusing on tasks rather than solely on your role as a manager, you can remove much of the uncertainty and emotion that might drive negativity that is often directed upwards. Minimising friction and miscommunication among team members will ease your work and ensure a smooth and cooperative atmosphere with more positive results.

UNDERSTAND WHAT MOTIVATES TEAM MEMBERS

Regardless of age, knowing what matters to your team members will help support them in the right ways, with appropriate development plans and meaningful rewards. Always try to learn from each other, especially during team discussions. A smart leader should know how to take everything valuable on board, even the most minute suggestions. Every employee offers different strengths and weaknesses to the company culture - contributing to the progressive company dynamic. You can make your coworkers identify their importance by acknowledging their unique strengths. Remember, one size does not fit all.

Farhat Chowdhury Zishan is working as a senior specialist at a multinational software company. He shares his views on tackling the challenges a young manager might face from his experience, "I think young managers need to see the

big picture and treat their tasks as a marathon instead of a race. Adrenaline kicks in right after you get to lead your team. But as new leaders, you need to sit with your team, understand your deputy's point of view and work your way through the obstacles. Don't rush. Just tackle every challenge with courage, creativity and resilience."

As detailed in the Wall Street Journal's managerial guide, managers must recognise differences in expertise, working styles and personalities among the individual-based direct reports.

SPEAK UP!

Just because you have put in the hard work to reach this level of progress in your career at a young age, doesn't mean it's time to coast. You can still voice your ideas and opinions on projects and initiatives outside of your job description. Always be prepared mentally to take on new responsibilities. Use your leading position as a chance to champion tons of progress and openness.

As per Deloitte's 2017 Millennial Survey, Gen Y-ers feel that they are capable of making a significant impact in the greater community through their workplace. Youngsters today, especially millennials, are beaming with the passion in rolled-up sleeves - ready to go and make a difference in shaping the cultural and political landscape. As long as you're aware of the crucial steps, you will get the hang of your role as a young team leader in no time!



Our bang for buck picks for wireless earphones under Tk. 5,000/-

REHENUIMA RAYSA

Earphones have been loved by music lovers for decades. A new addition to this tech accessory scenario is the wireless earphones for the convenience, style quotient, and easy availability they offer. Today we talk about some wireless in-ear earphones that can be a suitable companion to your electronic device - all under Tk. 5,000. These might surprise you with the features they are equipped with, despite their price tags suggesting otherwise.



UiiSii B1 IPX5 Waterproof Bluetooth Earphones

The deal does not get any better than this one, as this one is user-friendly, waterproof and economical. You can enjoy a quality earphone experience that easily fits your budget. Although it is one of the most affordable options out there, you get desirable performance from these UiiSii earphones. Give this one a try with a low budget of Tk. 670/-.

Realme Buds Wireless 2 Neo

These water-resistant earphones offer USB Type-C Fast Charging with up to 17 hours of music playback at 50% volume. Moreover, they ensure a deep and crystal-clear sound with a punchy bass experience. Reviews on these earbuds focus on the comfort they provide. They are available at Tk. 1,100/-.



OnePlus Bullets Wireless Z Series Bass Edition

OnePlus sure knows how to increase our expectations by a couple of notches. This one ensures the best value for your money by providing more than 17 hours of battery life with a single charge session. These sweat and water-resistant earphones are IP55-certified and priced at Tk. 2,250/-.



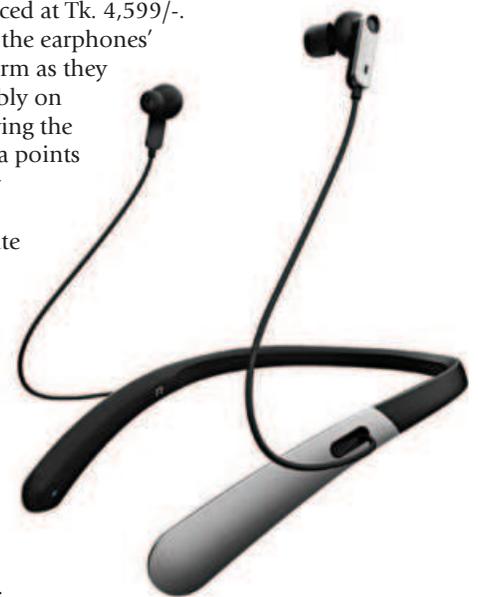
Samsung Level U2 Neckband Headphones

Samsung brings you well-made earphones to snug around your neck for up to 18 hours at a stretch, all within Tk. 3,499/-. Available in both blue and black colours, they come with ergonomic ear tips that are comfortable for your ears while being stylish in design. Experienced users will say that these headphones are worth every penny.

Edifier W330NB Noise Cancelling Bluetooth Earphones

These earphones provide various premium features while costing just under Tk. 5,000, currently priced at Tk. 4,599/-.

Users praise the earphones' neckband form as they sit comfortably on the neck, giving the product extra points for the sheer convenience factor. Despite being lightweight, the earphones are packed with an 8-hour-battery backup feature for active noise cancellation.



Some other wireless earphones under Tk. 5,000 worth checking out are Lenovo QE08 Bluetooth 5 Magnetic Neckband IPX5 Waterproof Sports Noise Cancelling Mic (Tk. 750/-), Remax RB-S30 Double Moving-Coil Stereo

Sound Wireless Neckband For Sports (Tk. 1,550/-), Anker R500 SoundCore Neckband Earphones (Tk. 2,499/-), JBL Tune 125BT Earphone (Tk. 3,100/-) and JBL Reflect Contour 2 Earphone (Tk. 4,050/-).

However, despite our curated recommendation list for the best Bluetooth earphones, all of which provide you with an easy pairing process, you should personally trial your potential purchase to better understand

the perks before you spend your money. Since preferences and comfort will always vary among users, please remember to check if the product aligns with your style and if it fits comfortably in your ears.

THE BEGINNER'S GUIDE TO BUYING LAPTOPS

ABDUS SALAM SHAWN

Packing the capabilities of a fully-fledged computer all the while being mobile, the laptop is a piece of technology we are always thankful for. Despite the ease of usage, it is not easy to find the perfect laptop for people who are not well versed with computers. Some might not even know about the basic components that matter and affect the user experience the most. If you are one of them, worry not. Today we will cover factors, technical specifications, upgradability, the price and the other important things to consider when buying your new portable pal.

FORM FACTORS

Laptop sizes generally start from 11.6 inches, going up to 17.3 inches. Depending on how you intend to use it, you ought to choose the suitable one. If you travel a lot or want to use it on your lap for long durations, you might want

on PC in a tablet form factor, Microsoft Surface has you covered.

CPU SPECIFICATIONS

You can either go with an Intel processor-based laptop or an AMD based one, but make sure to go with the latest generation CPU. New processors are more powerful and better optimized for battery life than their ancestors. Currently, you will find 11th gen Intel processors and 5000 series AMD Ryzen processors, with newer gen coming in a few months.

If you are looking for an entry-level, low-cost machine, you can look at Intel Celeron, or a bit better, Core i3 based laptops. On the flip side, AMD has its Athlon and Ryzen 3 CPUs in the beginner category. They are capable of handling your daily chores while not eating a lot of electricity or costing much.

For mid-range machines, you should go for Intel Core i5 or AMD Ryzen 5 based laptops. They blend superior performance with reasonable prices. You can expect to do some light gaming and even a bit of media production out of these processors.

As for the powerful laptops, you will find in them the latest Core i7 and Ryzen 7 processors. They are costlier but give the true desktop performance in a light, portable package. They need more power to run and will get hotter under pressure than the lower power processors, but if you are looking for a portable workstation or a gaming rig, these processors are your best bet.

UNDERSTANDING THE GPU

Some laptops, especially gaming laptops, come with dedicated graphics cards installed in them. They can boost your laptops' graphical performance immensely, resulting in good FPS output in games and better media encoding. However, they add to the complexity and bulk of your laptop's thermal design.

On the other hand, integrated GPUs that come with your laptops' CPUs are getting more and more powerful. They are not dedicated-GPU replacements but can handle most tasks you may throw at them. AMD's Vega iGPUs have created quite a stir with superb performance, while Intel has been adding the new and improved Iris integrated GPUs. They do not add any extra weight or price to the system, however, you need to set aside at least a couple GBs of RAM as they are dependent on it.

HOW MUCH RAM TO CONSIDER

All entry-level and some of the mid-range laptops now come with 4 GBs of DDR4 RAM, which is barely enough nowadays. The Windows system alone eats up around 2.5 GB, and we all know how Chrome loves gulping RAM. If you are going to do light browsing and media consumption, you are going to be sort of okay with 4 GB. But, you should ideally get at least 8 GB RAM if you want a satisfactory experience.

However, most laptops that come with 8 GB RAM are priced highly and boasts mid to top range specs. The right

way to go is to add an extra stick of RAM similar to the one installed in your laptop regarding its speed, size and preferably brand. It will save you money and give you a boost in performance. For higher performing laptops, 16 GBs is the sweet spot between performance and price.

Keep an eye out for the DDR generation and BUS speed of your laptop's RAM because they determine how fast the data transfer rate is between the RAM and the other components. You will mostly find DDR4 RAM in new laptops, which is the latest generation and the fastest. 2400 MHz is a good place to start for BUS speed, and the higher you go, the better.

WHAT ABOUT INTERNAL STORAGE AND DISPLAY?

If you want a snappy experience, find a laptop with an SSD in it. SSDs will give you unbelievable boot-up times, something people seem to be boasting about everywhere, and lightning-fast application start-up times. If you can't afford a laptop with an SSD pre-installed, look for an SSD slot that's been gracefully left empty for you to fill in later. The SSD will contain your system files and applications, while the HDD will serve as a trusty storage device.

Regarding the display, for most people, a 15.6 inch 1920*1080 screen will be more than enough, while gamers will need 2k or even a 4k display with a 144 Hz refresh rate or higher. Display sizes also determine portability.

UPGRADABILITY

Laptops don't allow a lot of upgrading as desktops do. When choosing one, make sure that the laptop has an extra RAM slot where you can add an extra stick. It will keep your machine going when the operating systems and programs get even hungrier in the future.

Another upgradable component of a laptop is its storage. Many laptops nowadays give you a dedicated slot to add an SSD. Find out if your laptop has one and if it's an NVMe or a SATA SSD slot. NVMe SSDs are the faster and more efficient of the two.

FINAL WORDS

There are a few other things to consider before making a purchase decision. You might want to install Windows 11 on your new system and to do that, you need a TPM 2.0 security chip. Make sure you have that by reading the product description page thoroughly. Be mindful of the ports your laptop has, as they will greatly influence your user experience.

Watch user reviews and read blogs about your final choices; it will be easier for you to find the one for you. Buy from trusted vendors with a proven track record of quality customer service.

Finally, you need to balance the features and your budget in a way that satisfies you the most. You may have to make compromises here and there, but choose according to your priorities, and you will find a great machine.



to look at the compact options with screen sizes not exceeding 14 inches and weight not surpassing 1.5 kg. Premium ultrabooks focus on elegance and lightness, which can be great options if you can shell out the cash.

Au contraire, gamers and workstation-alternative seekers who do not wish to carry their laptops everywhere are not bothered by the weight and bulk of their machines, and so, gaming laptops with big screens and bold exhaust grills are suitable for them. You can still carry these devices easily when the situation calls for it.

If you need a touchscreen and a keyboard in the same package, there are options such as HP X360, Asus Vivobook flip and Lenovo Yoga series laptops, to name some. However, if you want a full-

Only Murders in the Building: a love letter to true crime aficionados

TASNUVA KINNORI



A shocking murder, an intriguing mystery and a host of engaging characters trying to untangle the plot - these are the things every true crime aficionado longs for. With a rare 100% rating on Rotten Tomatoes and an 8.1/10 from IMDb, Only Murders in the Building delivers all of the above tropes in spades.

Starred in and produced by veterans Steve Martin (as Charles Haden Savage) and Martin Short (as Oliver Putnam) as well as Selena Gomez (as Mabel Mora), Only Murders in the Building is a true-crime comedy satire about a true-crime podcast. Set in a classic NY style Upper West Side apartment complex called The Arconia, the plot centres around a murder in the building and three unlikely crime podcast fanatics putting on their sleuthing caps to solve it.

Despite all the makings of a typical murder mystery, Only Murders in the Building is still so much more through its lively characters, layered nuances, sharp wit and comic timing. The series works on multiple levels - the masterful creation of

two comedy veterans, a tale of friendship overcoming the generation gap and a feel-good story of outcasts learning to experience life again.

From Steve Martin as a socially isolated actor, Martin Short as a grandiose and financially-strapped director to Selena Gomez as a young, closed-off artist - the unlikely trio, though out-of-place in any other setting, blend right into the vintage New York apartment complex. The protagonists bond over their love for true-crime podcasts and soon band together to create their podcast about solving the mystery of a neighbour's murder.

Just like the titular podcast, the investigation starts as a hilariously haphazard endeavour - digging through trash to light breaking, all of which soon gains traction with thrilling plot twists, red herrings and plenty of betrayal along the way. Taking multiple fourth-wall-breaking pokes at the love for true crime and podcast culture, the series shows its awareness of the viewer's true crime addiction as they try to solve the murder

from beyond their screens.

Where the series truly triumphs is through the characters. Separate peculiarities and backstories paired with a collective sense of podcast glory make for a captivating team that draws in the audience right from the start. Instead of limiting the narrative to the main three, the series doesn't shy away from handing over the centre stage to the supporting characters. From a true-crime wary police detective to the deaf son of the podcast sponsor (in a nearly dialogue-less yet deeply absorbing episode) to the point of view of podcast superfans, Only Murders in the Building gives the audience plenty of change in perspective. And that clever gamble pays off well when all the threads come together at the end.

Beyond the plot and acting, Siddhartha Khosla's melodic score for the series is hauntingly dreadful while at the same time fondly nostalgic. Paired with the setting of a vintage courtyard complex in modern-day New York, the ambience gives off a sense of belonging

and familiarity. The characters are peculiarly eccentric and yet relatable to city-dwellers living close still miles apart emotionally. And therein lies the subtle message of Only Murders in the Building - people being separated by their own lives coming together as parts of the whole.

With stellar ratings, three Golden Globe nominations and binge-worthy episode durations, Only Murders in the Building is a treat for lovers of true crime who don't mind the laughs while the greater puzzle is pieced together and justice is served.

A triumph of casting, scriptwriting and quirky meta-layering, the series is a gem of a show that can deliver a serious message without breaking away from the playfulness. It can draw you in with the silliness and also push you out with self-reflections on modern-day loneliness. With a cliffhanger of an ending setting the stage for another season, Only Murders in the Building is a must-watch for true crime aficionados.

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