

IT Kaleidoscope

jims
Sector-5, Rohini, Delhi
September issue

Theme: The world of IT



**Programme
Incharge**

Dr. Praveen Arora

**Faculty
Incharge**

Mrs. Priyanka Gandhi

**Content
Editor**

Kirti Bhardwaj

**Content
Writers**

Kirti Bhardwaj

Kushagra Gupta

Designers

Omansh Sharma

Hemant Dhillon



CICADA 3301: AN UNSOLVED MYSTERY

All that began by a simple post on the anonymous website "4chan" is still a mystery. Obviously, this article will not solve the cicada mystery because the title is not a bait (like the puzzle was), but it may help to unravel some facts.

On January 4, 2012 a user on the website- 4chan, going by the username of '3301' posted an image with stark white typing against a black background in the site's random board challenging users to unravel the hidden message in the image. Unbeknownst to others, it was just the beginning of the most elaborate scavenger hunt in the history of the internet. Someone discovered that by opening that image in note editor, a readable ciphered string could be discovered within the file which when unciphered lead to another image which for most us seemed like a dead-end but for some "different ones" it was not. They discovered that by using the tool 'outguess' the hidden message within the image could be found. The hidden messages lead to a sub-reddit which in turn, contained information about a book.

A phone number was found by using the book and the code, which when dialled played a pre-recorded message- "Very good, you have done well. There are 3 prime numbers one of which is 3301 and you have to find the other two. Multiply those three and add '.com' at the end. Goodbye and Goodluck".

This created a stir in the community, all the so-called 'Sherlocks' started coming out of their armchairs to uncover the truth but this soon proved to be only one side of the story. The most wondrous thing, though? No one knew exactly what they were running blindly after and many argued that it was just a next-level internet troll whereas many disapproved of it (considering the complexity of the puzzle posted). But still many crucial questions remained similar to a shrouding mist that never seem to disappear - Who was behind all this? What were these puzzles for? And, what will happen when you reach the end?

But one opinion was formed by the majority that this is the work of a high-profile secret organisation which eventually also turned out to be a rumour. Then after about a month someone discovered that the other 2 numbers are actually the dimensions of the original image. All three when multiplied and concatenated with a '.com' led to a website- "845145127.com" which opened a webpage with an image of a cicada and co-ordinates of 14 different locations in 5 different countries.



Now the people who thought that this was the work of a secret organisation felt justified as an average person couldn't have had the resources or reach to such a far magnitude. It was now time for people to move out of their homes and reach the mentioned coordinates. It was found that a paper with a QR code were present on these very 14 locations.

The QR code led to an image, image contained a riddle, riddle led to a book and the book led to a website, but this is where it gets serious as it was found, later, that only the few first arrivals to these locations were taken in.

The website now presents a message- "We want the best and not the followers".

Furthermore, after a month of silence cicada finally posted on the sub-reddit that "We have found the very highly intelligent individuals and the hunt is over".

When everyone thought that this never ending chase is finally over, cicada came back to hire 2 more times

- Kushagra Gupta
BCA 1st year: 1st shift

IT Kaleidoscope

Theme: The world of IT

NET NEUTRALITY – THE BATTLE FOR OPEN INTERNET

Since the mere birth of the World Wide Web in 1989 and its arrival in India, a parallel world has been created - a world that came together as a miracle built by humanity that humanity itself doesn't fully understand. A world where anyone, anywhere may express his or her beliefs, no matter how singular, without fear of being coerced into silence or conformity; where legal concepts of property, expression, identity, movement, and context do not apply because they are all based on matter, and there is no matter here - as said by John Barlow in favour of net neutrality.

The kind of lyrical ingenuity and impartial accessibility that the internet offers has made India come a long way from the under-developed country, it once was!

And so, it was indeed scandalous when Gopal Vittal, the CEO of Airtel (a mobile telecom company) announced additional charges on voice calls from its network using apps like Skype, WhatsApp etc. in December 2014 which in turn sparked a nation-wide debate and the phenomenon of open internet or net neutrality came into existence.

For decades, there were no rules protecting the internet user's right to have a neutral network and this was in many cases (as was revealed later) already been taken advantage of by some other telecom providers - the root cause being internet users' obliviousness of net neutrality. Net neutrality - a principle that Internet service providers treat all data on the Internet equally, and not discriminate or charge differently by - user, content, website, platform, application, type of attached equipment, or method of communication; gained a lot of popularity when various politicians, YouTubers, journalists and online activists (both Indian and others) supported it. A comic sketch group, AIB, released a YouTube video titled 'save the internet' which not only gave rise to #savetheinternet hashtag (on twitter) and websites like www.savetheinternet.info or www.battleforthenet.co, but also caused a frenzy among the netizens to revolt with a barrage of questions, complaints and criticisms against all those telecom providers who stood against net neutrality.

Around the same time, TRAI banned the zero rating plans including Airtel Zero and Facebook's Free Basics, along with publishing a pre-recommendation paper for identifying key issues within net neutrality, on the basis of which they asked the general public to give their opinions (via emails and comments on their site) stating that they will make the final decision on the grounds of the feedback and DoT's (Department of Telecommunications) recommendations. In fact, net neutrality is partly responsible for one of the biggest social media platforms - FACEBOOK. Had there been no neutrality, Mark Zuckerberg would have had to pay internet providers so that his site could reach millions of netizens it has established today and for a Harvard undergrad, at that time, it might not have been possible. Perhaps, that is why Facebook has been such an open supporter of net neutrality in India! After a year of trials and tribulations and supporters slamming big telecom companies, on February 8, 2016 Indian netizens saw history being made by the TRAI's revolutionary decision in favour of net neutrality - a bold move that was welcomed and applauded by not just Indians but also net neutrality fanatics from other countries who have previously fought or are still fighting for it, along with the father of internet, the creator of world wide web - Tim Berners lee.

But, there are many countries that still do not have net neutrality. Shockingly, one of them is the new-world nation of America. Although, ever since the FCC's (Federal Communications Commission) brought the law down on it, there has been a raging battle in the country to bring it back from the dead. Can the American congress, the FCC and the internet activists possibly bring back the net neutrality bill under the recent protests? If so, how would it affect the Indian market? Well, that remains to be seen. But one thing is for certain that even though India may not be as economically ripe as some other countries, it has certainly taken the next step towards being on.

- Kirti Bhardwaj
BCA 2nd Year: 1st Shift

Funtakshri Facts



Another name for Red Panda is "Firefox" which is where the browser got its name from - this means the logo of the browser depicts a Red Panda and not a fox!



If you wanted to get yourself clicked by the very first camera then you would have to sit still for 8 hours!



Google rents out goats from a company called California Grazing to solve the perennial problem of weeds at Google Headquarters!



On 1st of November, 2005 NASA pulled a prank announcing they had found water on Mars!



The original logo of Apple featured Sir Isaac Newton sitting underneath a tree with an Apple about to fall onto his head!

- Tanya Sharma
BCA 1st Year: 1st Shift