



News | Money | IT | Fox Sports | Classifieds | Real Estate | Cars | Auctions | Jobs | Shopping



Digital delivery  
Read The Australian  
as it rolls off the presses.



Search  
Advanced

Monday, February 04, 2002

Daily IT news in your inbox:

Name	:	:
Email Address	:	:



HOME	
NEWS	Business
REVIEWS	Industry
COLUMNS	Internet
IT JOBS	Law / Politics
SERVICES	Technology
SITE INFO	Telecoms
	World
	Features

HOME > NEWS

## Simputer to bridge divide

AFP in Bangalore

MAY 08, 2001

FOUR scientists from India's premier science institute and three entrepreneurs have unveiled a prototype of the "Simputer" - a pc handheld computer for the rural masses.

The 32Mb Linux-based touchscreen Simputer (Simple Computer) costs 9000 rupees (\$368) and provides internet connectivity through a dial-up modem.

Based on a free software from Open Source Initiative, the Simputer uses a new Information Markup Language (IML) as its application interface and an open, modular software technology.

It also features a smart card facility for making financial transactions on the internet and added services such as home shopping and ATMs.

"It is really tragic to observe that even though India considers its software superpower, it has done nothing about the deployment technology for the benefit of the masses," says Vinay Deshpande of Simputer Trust.

"A large section of the population remains blissfully ignorant of this digital revolution. We cannot expect any multinationals to come to our aid on this front."

Deshpande is among the three private software engineers along with two others from the Indian Institute of Science who formed the Simputer Trust.

The trust, a non-profit entity, was focussed on developing a low-cost, low-power computing device.

"This product will bridge the digital divide. We are planning to go to mass commercial production within a year. It will have applications in micro-banking and many other sectors," he says.

### ADVERTISEMENT



### BUSINESS

**No deal, says Suleman**

**NTT to control DavTel**

### INTERNET

**DoS attack stalls BigPond**

### TECHNOLOGY

**US deploys hi-tech eyes**

### WORLD

**Winning China's SMS game**

**Tonga cans internet project**

**Hitch in Nigerian telco privatisation**

### HARDWARE

**Apple Power Mac dual-800MHz G4**

**Creative PC-CAM 300**

**Ricoh RDC-i500**

### SOFTWARE

**Pinnacle Studio 7**

**DeskTopAuthor V2**

**Virtual PC for Mac**

"The most important aspect is the computer is multi-lingual."

The device has "text-to-speech" capability in local Indian languages.

The company has granted licences to three domestic firms for the Simputer. It could be made by other nations for a fee.



 [GO TO TOP OF THIS PAGE](#)

 [EMAIL THIS ARTICLE](#)

 [PRINT THIS ARTICLE](#)

[YOUR SAY >](#)

<input type="text"/>
<input type="text" value="name and suburb"/>
<input type="text" value="email address"/>
<input type="text" value="contact phone"/>

RECENT COMMENTS

[Mobile price incre](#)

[Your Say: Novem](#)

[ISPs and Window](#)

[Your Say: Novem](#)

[Your Say: Novem](#)

Your name, suburb and comments may be published in The Australian and on this site. We reserve the right to edit your submission. Your phone number and email address will be used for verification purposes only.

[ABOUT](#)

[ADVERTISING](#)

[PRIVACY](#)

[COPYRIGHT & REPRODUCTION](#)