

# Computer Daily News

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AUSTRALIA'S DAILY FAX & E-MAIL NEWS SERVICE - AVAILABLE ONLY ON SUBSCRIPTION

## Conroy hits back at NBN sceptics: Telstra to reveal all by AGM

CANBERRA – Following Opposition Leader **Tony Abbot's** colourful analogy of the Government's NBN policy being like a school hall policy on steroids (*CDN, Wednesday*), Comms and Broadband Minister **Stephen Conroy** has hit back, saying the NBN is already being rolled out in Tasmania with the results coming in at 10 percent lower than costing and on time.

Under strong questioning from **ABC Radio National** journalist **Fran Kelly**, Conroy said that the costings were made public when the Government issued the McKinsey report with assumptions costed out.

"Viability, fully-costed – the industry knows that the NBN can be built within the \$43 billion envelope," Conroy told Kelly.

He said the pricing indicated by McKinsey was at around \$35 for high-speed broadband introductory prices.

Conroy also addressed concerns raised by Future Fund chief **David Murray** that **Telstra** shareholders were being kept in the dark over the NBN.

Conroy said he expects the shareholders will be informed about the details of the NBN \$11 billion deal before the telco's annual general meeting in November.

Conroy says the process had been delayed by the election but he is confident the details will be made public soon.

"Telstra have already indicated they will circulate, as required by the corporations law, all of the material to their shareholders to allow them to make an informed decision

*Continued on page 2*

## Free iPad for uni students

ADELAIDE – The **University of Adelaide** will hand out free iPads to students enrolling in a science degree in 2011, claiming the new Apple tablets will revolutionise the way science is taught at the institution.

"We will be the first university in Australia to teach in this innovative way," said Sciences executive dean

Professor **Bob Hill**. "Our teaching material will be more accessible, more relevant and more frequently updated, providing the flexible learning environment that students are looking for."

Hill said that it would take several years to phase out all of the printed textbooks the university currently uses and transfer the content to Apple's platform.

"By 2012 onwards, we expect to roll out fully online versions of our first-year science courses. Students enrolling in a science course in 2011 will be the very first to see the significant benefits of the iPad-enhanced curriculum," Hill said.

● **Footnote:** The university says that the iPads remain uni property until March 31, 2011 – cut-off date for students to decide whether they want to continue with their studies. If the student chooses to continue to study Science, ownership of the iPad transfers to the student; students who discontinue their science studies must hand their iPads back.



## FCC plans 'Wi-Fi on steroids'

WASHINGTON – The **US Federal Communications Commission** next week will vote on a plan to expand the use of unlicensed frequencies, opening the way for a supercharged version of Wi-Fi that could bypass current deadspots and extend broadband signals to rural areas.

The aim is to free up use of so-called "white spaces" between TV frequencies, opening the door to supercharged Wi-Fi networks that will do away with the need to find a wireless hot spot.

The stronger, faster networks, dubbed "Wi-Fi on steroids" by **Google** co-founder **Larry Page**, will extend the reach of broadband signals significantly.

Because the white spaces are in the television portion of the spectrum, signals can travel through walls, unlike Wi-Fi, and can cover an area that is 16 times greater than current Wi-Fi signals.

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In the past, the FCC left such channels open to prevent interference between television signals. But the transition to digital television – completed last year in the USA – freed up many channels.

The FCC vote on September 23 will set final rules for use of the white-spaces spectrum. Some broadcasters are still opposing the move.

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## ATO wins Lockheed Martin deal

CANBERRA – The **Australian Taxation Office** and **Lockheed Martin** have inked a desktop services deal worth about \$60 million a year.

The deal involves two components comprising an Enterprise Service Management Centre contract for a service desk and end-to-end IT service management.

The contract also provides end-user tech support as part of the provision and support of desktop computers and office machines such as faxes and printers.

The bundle was one of three the ATO had looked to establish since 2007 to replace a \$1 billion a year IT outsourcing contract with **H-P Enterprise Services**, formerly EDS.

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## Data#3 gets aboard MS cloud

BRISBANE – ASX-listed IT services group **Data#3** plans to partner with **Telstra** to sell **Microsoft** cloud services in 2011, MD **John Grant** told an investor briefing.

Other plans for next year include mid-market growth in telesales, with more than 2000 seats; a new practice in worker productivity; and an enhanced online customer portal.

Assumptions for 2011 include tight government investment; a rise in business investment; and higher labour and operational costs.

Grant said the company has been building scale in all its businesses, with permanent headcount up 7 percent at 502, casuals down 20 percent to 48, and contractors up 3 percent at 277.

As previously announced, Data#3 reported a 13 percent rise in revenue to \$599 for the year to June 30; net profit was up 11 percent at \$10.9 million.

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## Conroy hits back

*Continued from page 1*

and vote in February, March, April next year," he said.

He said there was "about an eight-week delay due to the election campaign and the uncertainty afterwards. Because of the extended period of the election campaign, all of that legal work has still been going along probably slower than it would have been if there wasn't an election.

"But I understand that Telstra would hope to have signed what we call the long-form agreement, so that at least the agreement can be published before their annual general meeting in November."

Telstra's meeting is on November 19.

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## Midnight launch for Halo prequel

SYDNEY – The latest game phenomenon, **Bungie's Halo: Reach** for **Microsoft's** Xbox 360, had a midnight start in Sydney last night, with a launch in the outer Sydney suburb of Blacktown.

The launch at the **EB** games store in Blacktown was one of a number round the globe as *Halo: Reach* was launched in 25 countries.

Recently dubbed "a pop culture phenomenon" by *Variety* magazine and hailed as the No. 1 game series of all time, the Halo franchise looks set to establish new records with the official launch of *Halo: Reach*, a prequel to the Halo trilogy.

A beta multiplayer version launched in May drew more than 1 million players, taking part in 14 million online games, on the first day.



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## NICTA opens lab doors

CANBERRA – NICTA's Canberra Research Laboratory (CRL) is throwing open its doors to provide an insight into what it does in IT and communications research.

At the event tomorrow, the **Defence** CIO Group will also announce details of a new collaborative research agreement with NICTA.

Demonstrations at the centre will include:

- **NICTA technology** to support e-government;
- **Latest results** from the Human Performance Improvement (HPI) research project which produces small devices to monitor athletes' performances;
- **Personal navigation mapping** software from AutoMap;
- **Technology to coordinate** traffic lights and reduce CO<sub>2</sub>;
- **Computer vision-based technologies** to support development of a retinal prosthesis, or 'bionic eye'.

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## New chair for MPS body

SYDNEY – The **Communications Alliance**, a peak body for the Australian communications industry, has posted **Jane Smith** as the independent chair for revision of the Communications Alliance Mobile Premium Services (MPS) code.

The MPS code – one of the key consumer protection co-regulatory codes maintained by Communications Alliance – came into effect on July 1 2009.

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## Seven offers Sunrise apps

SYDNEY – **Seven's** *Sunrise* breakfast show will be the first commercial TV program to launch applications for iPhone, iPad and Android devices.

The network's outgoing director of morning television **Adam Boland** commissioned an app for the mobile devices from local company **Webbling** after a competitive tender.

"Essentially it's a portal for everything *Sunrise*," Boland

said. "We've never expected someone to sit down and watch the whole show on TV; they have to leave for work or drive the kids to school. Now they won't have to miss a thing. They can take Sunrise wherever they go. They can watch it live and on delay. It's a free app and ad-free. This is not about us making money."

## Aussie makes US inroads

ADELAIDE – Australian entrepreneur **Raaj Menon** says he plans to launch his **Padacs** iPad accessories brand in the United States, three months after establishing the product range in Australia.

Menon, the Adelaide-based CEO of technology distributor **PCRange**, said the US launch comes after a "huge" level of North American demand on its [www.padacs.com](http://www.padacs.com) website. The company sells products including cases, stands, car chargers and screen guards.

From September 17, it will provide a fulfilment service from a Michigan-based distribution centre for US customers.

## DMS appoints PicNet

SYDNEY – Australian IT services provider **PicNet** has won a four-year contract to supply technology services to **DMS Maritime**, claimed to be the largest maritime services company in Australia.

PicNet will provide IT infrastructure and network support, software development, IT project management and strategic consulting. Other projects in the works include disaster recovery, network consolidation and WAN optimisation assignments.

## Fashion catwalks go online

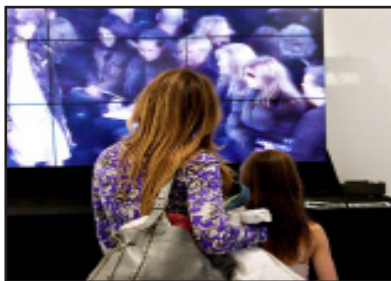
NEW YORK – You no longer have to be one of the Top 400 to get a front seat at **Fashion Week** runway shows. The world's top designers are embracing the Web to allow anyone to have a virtual front seat at the catwalk.

The fashion extravaganzas began last week with New York Fashion Week and continue through the next month in London, Paris and Milan – and there will be many more shoppers watching via Web-cam than actually at the catwalks.

For instance, the *New York Times* reports, **Gucci** this year will allow anyone sign up to watch its show online, and will let viewers share live Webcam videos as though they were playing with YouTube.

**Alexander Wang** is projecting video of its show on a "moving billboard" in Manhattan, and **Betsey Johnson** is showing live Web versions of its show.

British design house **Burberry** will stream its runway show live from London, and allow anyone with a computer and a credit card to order the merchandise as the



Online fashion billboard: NYT photo

## INSIDE COMPUTER DAILY NEWS

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models strut their stuff.

Additionally, Burberry is inviting 1500 people to its stores worldwide, where they will watch the show on high-definition screens and be able to order merchandise immediately via an iPad app.

## H-P to finalise ArcSight deal

SAN FRANCISCO – **Hewlett-Packard** is closing in on a deal to buy security-software maker **ArcSight** for about US\$1.5 billion, polishing off a spending spree instigated by former CEO **Mark Hurd** who resigned under pressure last month.

ArcSight's market capitalisation was \$1.2 billion, or \$35.10 a share, in 4pm trading on the Nasdaq on Friday.

A deal is expected to be announced early this week but H-P is remaining tightlipped.

The ArcSight deal would be the second time that H-P has agreed to pay a premium for a smaller company since Hurd resigned. The company engaged in a bidding war with rival **Dell** over storage-technology company **3Par**, eventually winning it with a bid of \$2.35 billion.

## MS & Intel hasten graphics

REDMOND – **Microsoft** will launch the beta of the upcoming Internet Explorer browser at an event in San Francisco as competition from Chrome, Firefox, and Safari has spurred Redmond to beef up its graphics acceleration, among other improvements.

**Intel** is slated to introduce its Sandy Bridge chip architecture, with enhanced graphics silicon, at the **Intel Developer Forum**, which begins in the US this week. Recent Microsoft and Intel primers on Internet Explorer 9's accelerated graphics point to snappier Web browsing.

● **In Australia**, Microsoft has switched a media briefing on the Internet Explorer 9 beta, originally scheduled for Sydney on Thursday morning, to Melbourne. This is to fit in with the schedules of its spruikers, developer evangelist **Michael Kordahi** and Windows consumer product manager **Melissa Dewick**, a spokesperson said.

# Computer Daily News

## GoDaddy.com on blocks

SAN FRANCISCO – Privately owned GoDaddy.com, which registers Internet domain names, has posted itself for sale in an auction that could fetch more than US\$1 billion.

**Qatalyst Partners**, the boutique firm run by veteran technology banker Frank **Quattrone**, has been hired to shop the Go Daddy group, which runs the world's largest domain name registry. Private-equity firms are expected to bid for the company, which currently has more than 43 million domains under management.

Based in Scottsdale, Arizona, GoDaddy.com is owned by **Bob Parsons**, who founded the company in 1997 and is its chief executive. The company is known for its edgy advertising, including Super Bowl commercials and ads featuring different "Go Daddy Girls," including racing car driver **Danica Patrick**.

## Samsung Tab set for launch

SAN FRANCISCO – **Samsung Electronics** has inked deals in the US with mobile operators such as **Verizon Wireless**, **Sprint Nextel** and **AT&T** to carry its new Google-powered tablet computer in a bid by Samsung to take on **Apple's** hot-selling iPad.

Samsung is scheduled to unveil the Galaxy Tab in the US market at an event at New York City's Time Warner Centre on Thursday.

While a firm price hasn't been set, Samsung product executive **Hankil Yoon** said last week that it would probably retail for between US\$200 and \$300. Final price will vary depending on different carriers' subsidies.

## Scanning digitises book in minute

TOKYO – Japanese researchers have developed technology to scan a book as fast as a person can flip through it.

A prototype ultra-speed scanner capable of digitising a book in one minute will be available within two years, according to chief researchers of the team at the **University of Tokyo's** Graduate School of Information Science and Technology.

The "book-flipping scanning" system works with a camera that can take up to 500 photographs a second, enabling it to record about 170 book pages in 60 seconds as a person thumbs through them.

## US STOCK PRICES

Stock	Close	Change	52-wk range
<b>Nasdaq</b>	<b>2242.48</b>	<b>+6.28</b>	<b>2024.27-2535.28</b>
Accenture	38.82	+0.61	17.74 - 44.67
Adobe	32.20	- 0.66	26.01 - 38.20
Alcatel-Lucent	2.74	- 0.02	2.25 - 4.95
AMD	5.81	- 0.05	4.33 - 10.24
Apple	263.41	+0.34	170.25 - 279.01
Autodesk	30.96	+0.58	22.27 - 35.18
BMC Software	38.92	+0.13	34.24 - 41.27
Brocade	5.88	- 0.07	4.64 - 9.84
C A	19.78	+0.42	17.70 - 24.15
CheckPoint	34.54	+0.47	26.93 - 36.40
Cisco	20.62	+0.01	19.82 - 27.74
Citrix	63.69	+0.90	35.83 - 64.24
Compuware	8.17	+0.06	6.79 - 8.95
Concurrent	6.38	- 0.06	3.38 - 6.50
C S C	42.87	+1.14	39.61 - 58.36
Dell	12.06	- 0.32	11.34 - 17.52
Electronic Arts	16.24	- 0.04	14.06 - 21.05
E M C	19.98	+0.06	16.12 - 20.97
Epicor	7.26	+0.06	5.91 - 10.99
Extreme	2.90	- 0.17	1.96 - 3.79
F5 Networks	94.15	- 1.58	37.62 - 98.01
Google	476.14	- 0.04	433.63 - 629.51
Hewlett-Packard	38.28	- 0.54	37.32 - 54.75
I B M	127.99	+1.63	116.00 - 134.25
Informatica	34.80	+0.14	20.09 - 35.25
Intel	17.97	- 0.03	17.60 - 24.37
Kyocera	91.53	+1.20	77.70 - 105.85
Lawson Software	8.14	+0.10	5.69 - 8.45
Level 3 Comms	1.11	0.00	0.95 - 1.77
Lexmark	38.91	+0.37	19.76 - 42.14
McAfee	47.24	+0.03	29.53 - 47.35
Microsoft	23.85	- 0.16	22.73 - 31.58
N C R	13.64	+0.06	9.18 - 16.00
NetApp	46.33	0.00	24.07 - 47.89
Novell	5.52	- 0.17	3.84 - 6.36
Oracle	25.05	+0.72	20.10 - 26.63
Progress Software	28.33	- 0.04	21.95 - 34.94
Red Hat	37.41	+0.43	24.73 - 37.61
RightNow	18.22	- 0.29	11.91 - 19.99
R I M	44.12	- 0.90	42.53 - 88.08
Salesforce.com	117.42	- 0.23	54.06 - 122.00
S A P	45.48	- 0.34	40.95 - 52.73
Siemens	96.22	+0.14	82.74 - 104.14
Symantec	14.86	+0.24	12.04 - 19.16
Teradata	34.73	+0.19	25.42 - 35.17
Telstra	2.80	- 0.01	2.74 - 3.55
Texas Instruments	23.70	- 0.14	22.26 - 27.44
VMware	84.90	+0.36	36.92 - 85.99
Unisys	25.35	+0.60	17.04 - 40.40
Xerox	9.11	- 0.03	7.19 - 11.72
Yahoo!	13.68	+0.03	12.94 - 19.12

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