

Google, Keyword: India

-- Google, the webs most powerful search engine, plans to open a research and development base in India; should Silicon Valley worry? --

BACKGROUND:

To many, life on the internet might be too terrible to contemplate without a helpful search engine. Sure there is an endless supply of information and helpful resources to be found online, but how to sift through it all and find just what your looking for?

That's where Google comes in. www.google.com can help you with anything from buying a car, to finding a restaurant, to building a home. Type in "sushi rolling" and a page will come up full of sites on how to do just that. If you need to find something on the internet, Google is the place to start.

Google was started by Stanford University PhD students Sergey Brin and Larry Page. The name Google is a play on the word googol which was coined by Milton Sirota, nephew of American mathematician Edward Kasner, to refer to the number represented by the numeral 1 followed by 100 zeros. A number which might give some indication of what Google has been trying to do the past five years.

The initial name for the search engine was BackRub, for its unique ability to analyze the "back links" pointing to a given website. This was when the pair were using Page's dorm room for their computer housings and were maxing out their credit cards buying computer equipment.

Once the pair completed BackRub, they put their PhD plans on hold and began to shop

their search engine around to some of the big wigs in the computer industry.

Among others, they talked to Yahoo! founder David Filo who told them to come back when their product was more fully developed. The pair struck gold however when they chatted with Sun Microsystems CEO Andy Bechtolsheim on a Stanford faculty member's porch in Palo Alto. They gave the CEO a demo of the product which he must have enjoyed, because even though he said he couldn't discuss the details since he was short on time,



Google creators Page and Brin

Bechtolsheim wrote out a check to Google Inc. for \$100,000. Brin and Page set up their corporation, and by the time all was said and done, they had brought in a total investment of around \$1 million.

Brin and Page started out in a garage in Menlo Park, but with the technology world and the press beginning to take notice, and more and more surfers turning to Google for their search engine needs, the pair actually had to hire people and relocate to more spacious digs in Palo Alto.

Today Google has over 1,000 employees, an impressive Management Team, Board of Directors, and Technical Advisory Counsel, and is headquartered at a place called Googleplex in Mountain View, California.

STORY:

Google has decided to open a research and development center in Bangalore, an area in India which has been nicknamed India's Silicon Valley.

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Google currently has 21 offices around the world, most of which are sales offices. This will be the first research and development center for the company outside the United States. "We just want more really great engineers," said senior Google official Wayne Rosing in an interview with the Wall Street Journal.

There has been an influx of Indian computer scientists into the Silicon Valley for many years now, especially during the technology bubble. One computer systems manager who works for Seagate Technologies and wished to remain anonymous has noticed his own company's conspicuously high number of Indian employees. "They are very well trained. In India it seems that from a young age they are training kids to work in the technology sector. For the most part they are very specialized and have a strong work ethic although many times there is a lack of seeing the overall picture, in terms of getting projects done. I think it might have to do with communication." Perhaps Google is looking for that same specialization and strong work ethic, as well as lower costs, without the communication problems.

Several technology companies have been outsourcing work to India recently to cut costs. As Rosing said in his Wall Street Journal interview, "It's clear there are a significant number of really talented computer scientists in India." What he didn't say is that these "really talented" computer scientists don't have the living expenses one does in Silicon Valley, and thus don't demand the same compensation.

This might be a bit of a worry for some of those back in California. But in India, Google is looking ahead to the broader global picture- not only in terms of cutting employee costs while

keeping quality, but also in terms of broadening their fiscal influence. India is a country with more millionaires than Australia. Thus India is currently, and will be in the future, a huge market for technology. It seems then that in opening a research and development facility in India, Google is opening their arms to the Indian tech market.

SIGNIFICANCE:

When Google first started, the site was receiving 10,000 search queries a day if it was lucky. Today it is used by millions of people handling 200 million queries each day and operates in 80 different languages.

But while Google may be a guide for the average surfer, it is an absolute necessity for many companies who rely on the internet to stay afloat. Companies rely on Google to bring customers to them, so much so, that there are actually consultants who are paid to customize companies' websites so that they get high Google rankings. Among Google's list of clients are AOL/Netscape, the Italian portal Virgilio, and Virgin Net, the UK's top online entertainment guide.

That's the power of Google, and that's the power of the internet. A research and development center in India is a manifestation of the expansion of both.

India is a country of paradoxes. One can still find people dying on the street from starvation, but the numbers of millionaires in the country out number the entire population of some nations. In a country of over a billion people with a rigid class system, the large middle classes are trained in specific areas of current in demand professions in order to get stay in the middle or get ahead. Google's opening of a research and development facility in India is an attempt to take advantage of that.

What does this mean? It means that Google can get the same job done in India as it can in the U.S. except at a lower price. Sound familiar? Not so long ago the major automotive companies moved out of Detroit and across the border. It is now taken for granted that clothing



Bangalore's has developed its own 'Silicon Valley'

companies will harvest and manufacture their products in third world countries. It may have seemed impossible for the tech industry to follow suit since proficiency in computers means high level education. But India is training their youth in that precise field. And the tech companies are aware of it.

Many of the tech giants have simply been outsourcing work to India, but Google has taken it one step further. It plans to set up a research and development facility for what seems to be many of the same reasons other industries fled the States. Is Google ushering in a new wave of technological emigration? Perhaps such a question is too hasty, but only time will tell.

Fasten Your Seatbelts, We are Ready for Take-Off

-- the newest addition to the Wright Brothers National Memorial is figures and a plane commemorating that historic moment on Dec. 17, 1903, when man first touched the sky. --

BACKGROUND:

Wright brothers were American airplane inventors and aviation pioneers. Orville Wright 1871-1948, was born in Dayton, Ohio, and Wilbur Wright, 1867-1912, near New Castle, Ind. Their interest in aviation was aroused in the 1890s by the German engineer Otto Lilienthal's glider flights. Both excellent mechanics, the Wrights used the facilities of the bicycle repair shop and factory which they operated (1892-1904) at Dayton for the construction of their early aircraft.

By experimenting with movable portions of the wing assembly, rather than shifts in bodily weight, as a means of correcting the aircraft's position in flight they made an important improvement in aircraft design. During this period they drew up valuable tables of wind pressure and

drift. Orville designed an engine, which they constructed and attached to their improved glider.



Wilbur describes his airplane to a fascinated King Alfonso XIII of Spain.



Preparing the plane for takeoff.



Camp d'Auvours, September 21, 1908.
Wilbur's record flight of 1 hr 31 min 25 4/5 sec.

On Dec. 17, 1903, they made near Kitty Hawk, N.C., the first controlled, sustained flights in a power-driven airplane. Of their four flights on that day, the first, made by Orville, lasted 12 sec, and the fourth, by Wilbur, covered 852 ft (259 m) in 59 sec. The brothers continued their experiments at Dayton and built several biplanes. Record-breaking flights in 1908 by Orville in the United States and by Wilbur in France brought them worldwide fame. In 1909 the U.S. government accepted the Wright machine for army use, and the brothers established the Wright

Company. The house where Orville was born and the bicycle-shop laboratory have been restored and were moved to Greenfield Village, Mich.

STORY:



KILL DEVIL HILLS, N.C. - It won't be dedicated until Sunday, but a sculpture of the Wright brothers and their Flyer at start of the first manned,

powered flight already has become a magnet for children — and adults — who like their history hands-on. The figures and plane commemorating that historic moment on Dec. 17, 1903, are the newest addition to the Wright Brothers National Memorial.

The sculpture, unfenced and at ground level, is "the one hands-on thing that we've got. You're not just looking at something through a glass, from behind a cord," park superintendent Lawrence Belli said.

Sunday's dedication of the bronze and steel statue, a gift to the national park from the state of North Carolina, is part of the weeklong festivities leading up to the 100th anniversary of the Wright brothers' first flight. The week features air shows, a salute to aviation heroes and, with President Bush expected to attend, a re-creation on Wednesday's anniversary of the Wrights' first, 12-second flight.

Kevin Kochersberger, an associate professor of mechanical engineering at the Rochester Institute of Technology, won the honors to fly the plane, organizers said Saturday. At the park Saturday, sculptor Stephen Smith watched with a smile as visitors snapped photos, milling around the figures of Wilbur Wright and John Daniels, the local man who took the famous photograph of the flyer's first ascent. "We actually (modeled it on) the moment before," the Wilmington-born artist said. "In the photo, the plane is about two feet in the air. We wanted it at the very beginning of flight."

The poses were practical as well as aesthetic. The sculpture weighs well over 10,000

pounds, and it was necessary to have the plane touching the ground to keep it stable, especially in an area with weather as turbulent as the Outer Banks can experience. All that weight is supported by concrete and steel pillars extending 30 feet deep into the ground. The whole assemblage was designed, with the help of state Department of Transportation engineers, to withstand 140 mph wind and weight of 150 pounds per square foot.

Four other residents — and, according to some accounts, a dog — witnessed the 1903 flights. Park officials hope to add statues of them to the site later.

Until now, the park's most notable features have been the 61-foot-tall granite memorial pylon atop Kill Devil Hill, the reconstructed shack and hangar of the brothers' camp, cairns marking the site of the first flights, and the visitors center. Shifting sand quickly erased the real traces of the Wrights' presence.

SIGNIFICANCE:

The first successful sustained powered flights in a heavier-than-air machine were made in Kitty Hawk by Wilbur and Orville Wright on December 17, 1903. A 60-foot granite monument dedicated in 1932, is perched atop 90-foot tall Kill Devil Hill commemorating the achievement of these two visionaries from Dayton, Ohio.

A visit should include touring the museum exhibits, participating in a ranger conducted program, touring the reconstructed camp buildings and first flight trail area, and a climb up Kill Devil Hill to view the memorial pylon.

For more information, please visit:

Wright Brothers National Memorial:

<http://www.nps.gov/wrbr/index.htm>

Call or E-mail at:

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252 441 7430

Headquarters
252 473 2111

Email
caha_interpretation@nps.gov

ENTERTAINMENT:

Tom Cruise as a Samurai?

I hear two voices from people who haven't seen *The Last Samurai*. Those who say they really want to see the movie and those who say, you know, I just can't see Tom Cruise as a Samurai.

I was between the two. At first the idea seemed ridiculous, silly even. But then I remembered my doubts before "Interview With A Vampire" and I knew I had to give it a chance.

The result: rather unexciting. Unexciting in the way that, *The Last Samurai* isn't a movie you can dismiss as terrible and it isn't a movie that will have you walking away thinking 'best picture.' It is average, is middle of the pack, has its good and bad points, and has strengths and weaknesses.

I'll give you what works first. Tom Cruise plays a soldier (Captain Algren) who fought in the Indian Wars and who has turned to booze to escape his demons. He's a man with nothing to lose, who isn't afraid of death, and Cruise plays that part well. Because Algren has killed without honor and is broken because of it, it is believable that he would be open to a way of life that embraces his familiarity with killing, but does so in the confines of tradition and honor. Also Katsumoto (Ken Watanabe), Algren's captor and mentor for the Samurai life, is affable and intriguing.

What doesn't work is the ending. Cruise fails to truly embrace the Samurai way like Katsumoto, which is what we have come to believe is the only thing that's kept him going. This is a result of the obligatory love story that we don't care about. Without the forced love story which in turn forces a weak ending, *The Last Samurai* could have easily been one of the best films of the year. As is it's just the second best movie out right now, maybe...

SPORTS:

Spreading the Love

It's not what you think. We're talking about football here. But spreading the love around, meaning playoff love, was what the NFL had in mind when they implemented salary caps. No more domination, no more dwelling in the cellar. No longer is it a given that the 49ers will be a super bowl contender, and let's not jinx it, but the Bengals have a legitimate shot at the playoffs.

The question is though, is this what we want? Do we want to see a new team win their division every year? Do we want to see the end of football dynasties? Some would argue that the level of play has dropped since the salary cap was implemented. Players roam from team to team because as soon as someone has a break out year and their contract expires, the team he broke out on can no longer afford him under the salary cap restrictions.

As it is, only three or four of the twelve teams which made the playoffs last year are in a spot to do so this year. The NFL wanted more disparity in the league and they got it, in spades. But is that what's good for football? Forget about building a team, nowadays you piece one together and hope it can win a super bowl before the 3 year expiration date. Here's a list of last year's teams who made it to the playoffs; you can decide for yourself...

2002 playoff teams

AFC playoff teams

Cleveland Browns

Indianapolis Colts

New York Jets

Oakland Raiders

Pittsburgh Steelers

Tennessee Titans

NFC playoff teams

Atlanta Falcons

Green Bay Packers

New York Giants

Philadelphia Eagles

San Francisco 49ers

Tampa Bay Buccaneers

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY:

December 15, 1791

BILL OF RIGHTS BECOMES LAW

Following ratification by the state of Virginia, the first 10 amendments to the U.S. Constitution, known collectively as the Bill of Rights, become the law of the land.

In September 1789, the first Congress of the United States approved 12 amendments to the U.S. Constitution and sent them to the states for ratification. The amendments were designed to protect the basic rights of U.S. citizens, guaranteeing the freedom of speech, press, assembly, and exercise of religion; the right to fair legal procedure and to bear arms; and that powers not delegated to the federal government would be reserved for the states and the people.

Influenced by the English Bill of Rights of 1689, the Bill of Rights was also drawn from Virginia's Declaration of Rights, drafted by George Mason in 1776. Mason, a native Virginian, was a lifelong champion of individual liberties, and in 1787 he attended the Constitutional Convention and criticized the final document for lacking constitutional protection of basic political rights. In the ratification struggle that followed, Mason and other critics agreed to support the Constitution in exchange for the assurance that amendments would be passed immediately.

On December 15, 1791, Virginia became the 10th of 14 states to approve 10 of the 12 amendments, thus giving the Bill of Rights the two-thirds majority of state ratification necessary to make it legal. Of the two amendments not ratified, the first concerned the population system of representation, while the second prohibited laws varying the payment of congressional members from taking effect until an election intervened. The first of these two amendments was never ratified, while the second was finally ratified more than 200 years later, in 1992.

BIOGRAPHY:

B. Disraeli

In 1826 Disraeli published his first novel, *Vivian Grey*. It was the beginning of a prolific literary career, and his political essays and numerous novels earned him a permanent place in English literature. After a period of foreign travel (1830–31), Disraeli returned to London, where he soon became prominent in society. Standing four times for Parliament without success, he was elected in 1837 and developed into an outstanding, realistic, and caustically witty politician.

He then became spokesman for the Young England group of Tories, espousing a sort of romantic and aristocratic Toryism. He expressed these themes in the political novels *Coningsby* (1844) and *Sybil* (1846). He criticized Peel's free-trade legislation, particularly repeal of the corn laws (1846). After repeal went through (1846), he helped bring down then PM Peel's ministry.

At the death of Lord George Bentinck (1848), Disraeli became leader of the Tory protectionists. He was Chancellor of the Exchequer in the brief governments of the earl of Derby in 1852 and 1858–59, and then in 1866.

Disraeli succeeded the earl of Derby as prime minister in 1868 but lost the office to Gladstone in the same year. Disraeli's second ministry (1874–80) enacted many domestic reforms in housing, public health, and factory legislation, but it was more notable for its aggressive foreign policy. The annexation of the Fiji islands (1874) and of the Transvaal (1877), the war against the Afghans (1878–79), and the Zulu War of 1879 proclaimed England a world imperial power more clearly than before. So did Queen Victoria's assumption (1876) of the title of empress of India; Disraeli was a great favorite of the queen. He also conducted the government's purchase (1875) of the controlling shares of Suez Canal. Disraeli was created earl of Beaconsfield in 1876. He was defeated by Gladstone in 1880.

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FEATURE:

The Bill of Rights

In the summer of 1787, delegates from the 13 states convened in Philadelphia and drafted a remarkable blueprint for self-government -- the Constitution of the United States. The first draft set up a system of checks and balances that included a strong executive branch, a representative legislature and a federal judiciary.

The Constitution was remarkable, but flawed. For one thing, it did not include a specific declaration – or bill – of individual rights. It specified what the government could do but did not say what it *could not do*. For another, it did not apply to everyone. The "consent of the governed" meant propertied white men only.

The absence of a "bill of rights" turned out to be an obstacle to the Constitution's ratification by the states. It would take four more years of intense debate before the new government's form would be resolved. The Federalists opposed including a bill of rights on the ground that it was unnecessary. The Anti-Federalists, who were afraid of a strong centralized government, refused to support the Constitution without one.

In the end, popular sentiment was decisive. Recently freed from the despotic English monarchy, the American people wanted strong guarantees that the new government would not trample upon their newly won freedoms of speech, press and religion, nor upon their right to be free from warrantless searches and seizures. So, the Constitution's framers heeded Thomas Jefferson who argued: "A bill of rights is what the people are entitled to against every government on earth, general or particular, and what no just government should refuse, or rest on inference."

The American Bill of Rights, inspired by Jefferson and drafted by James Madison, was adopted, and in 1791 the Constitution's first ten amendments became the law of the land.

The Ten Original Amendments: The Bill of Rights. Passed by Congress September 25, 1789. Ratified December 15, 1791.

1. Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances.
2. A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.
3. No Soldier shall, in time of peace be quartered in any house, without the consent of the Owner, nor in time of war, but in a manner to be prescribed by law.
4. The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no Warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by Oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized.
5. No person shall be held to answer for a capital, or otherwise infamous crime, unless on a presentment or indictment of a Grand Jury, except in cases arising in the land or naval forces, or in the Militia, when in actual service in time of War or public danger; nor shall any person be subject for the same offence to be twice put in jeopardy of life or limb; nor shall be compelled in any criminal case to be a witness against himself, nor be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor shall private property be taken for public use, without just compensation.
6. In all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall enjoy the right to a speedy and public trial, by an impartial jury of the State and district wherein the crime shall have been committed, which district shall have been previously ascertained by law, and to be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation; to be confronted with the witnesses against him; to have compulsory process for obtaining witnesses in his favor, and to have the Assistance of Counsel for his defense.
7. In Suits at common law, where the value in controversy shall exceed twenty dollars, the right of trial by jury shall be preserved, and no fact tried by a jury, shall be otherwise re-examined in any Court of the United States, than according to the rules of the common law.
8. Excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted.
9. The enumeration in the Constitution, of certain rights, shall not be construed to deny or disparage others retained by the people.
10. The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people.

Quote of the Week:
 "[A] bill of rights is what the people are entitled to against every government on earth, general or particular, and what no just government should refuse."
 --- Thomas Jefferson December 20, 1787

Fact of the Week:
 Man's first flight lasted only 12 seconds.

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 And
 Have a Great Week!

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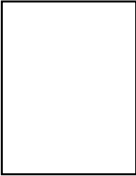
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