

Computer Daily News

ALL MAJOR
TECHNOLOGY
STOCK
PRICES
See page 4

AUSTRALIA'S DAILY E-MAIL TECHNOLOGY NEWS SERVICE – AVAILABLE ONLY ON SUBSCRIPTION

Tech sector, business alarmed after govt downgrades IT visas

CANBERRA: The Federal Government's decision to downgrade IT visa applications has raised concerns within the tech and business sectors that fixing the growing skills shortage will take longer than anticipated.

CEO of the Australian Computer Society, **Chris Vein**, said that given Australia's ongoing chronic technology skills shortage he was surprised IT visas are being deprioritised, particularly given the important role tech plays in delivering the healthcare and education services the government is clearly looking at supporting with these changes.

The changes highlight that skilled migration is not an easy solution for our long-standing IT skills shortfall,

Australia has to also begun work on building our domestic workforce's capabilities, encouraging businesses to invest in advanced technology and encourage students to enter STEM careers," .

The ACS says it will continue to work with the Albanese government to develop policies on training, education and skilled migration.

Continued on page 2

Aust fintech industry hit by skills shortage

MELBOURNE: Australia's fintech sector has significantly matured in the past 12 months with the around 78 percent of fintechs now post-revenue, up from 70 percent in 2021, but founders expect significant headwinds in 2023, according to

the latest **EY and FinTech Australia** Census report.

The report found the last 12 months saw a steady level of successful uplift in fintech capital, with 45 percent of respondents raising more than \$10 million compared to 44 percent in 2021.

But the proportion of fintechs exceeding their capital raising requirements decreased, from 21 percent in 2021 to 17 percent this year. Payments, wallets and supply chain fintechs were most successful, with 21 percent of this segment raising more than \$100 million, compared to the 13 percent sector average.

Fintechs said the top three challenges to attracting and retaining talent are rising employee salaries, access to skilled domestic workers and competition for talent from big tech. And there remains a scarcity of software experts, data engineers, product management and sales staff.



Blackbird raises \$1B for venture capital pie

SYDNEY: Venture capital firm, **Blackbird**, is flying high and after announcing it has raised a new \$1 billion fund to back emerging startups in Australia and New Zealand.

Blackbird claims the fund is Australia's largest, and closed above the target \$1 billion. Investors include superannuation funds **AustralianSuper**, **Hostplus**, **HESTA**, **Aware Super**, **Telstra Super** and **NGS**. Other backers include Australia's sovereign wealth fund, **The Future Fund**, and New Zealand's sovereign wealth funds, **New Zealand Growth Capital Partners Elevate Fund** and **ACC**.



The VC fund has already made 18 investments into

HOW TO REACH AUSTRALIA'S TOP I.T. EXECUTIVES
The first thing hundreds of Australian IT managing directors, marketing managers and other executives do every working morning is reach for their copy of *Computer Daily News*. Put your message on their desk in this advertising space, now available at very reasonable rates. Phone (02) 4381 2038 for details

startups operating in industries such as AI, manufacturing and e-commerce.

“Our mission has been to help catalyse the startup community in Australia and New Zealand and this is a wonderful example of how our startup ecosystem is maturing and founders are investing back into the community,” said Blackbird partner, **Rick Baker** (pictured). The fund will maintain the venture capital firm’s current approach to investing in startups at an early stage.

ACSC warns of OpenSSL vulnerable to malicious actors

CANBERRA: The Australian Cyber Security Centre (ACSC) says it is aware of a buffer overrun and buffer overflow vulnerability in OpenSSL versions above to 3.0.

The ACSC rates the vulnerability as “High” and says organisations using version 3.x should apply the available patch immediately. OpenSSL is a widely used cryptographic and secure communication software library and is available on all operating systems.

The ACSC says exploitation of the vulnerability could allow a malicious actor to gain remote code execution rights on the host running OpenSSL and perform unauthorised actions. Additionally, a malicious email address



Govt downgrades IT visas

Continued from page 1

But the decision by Home Affairs Minister **Claire O’Neill**, will reverberate particularly within the business sector which was hoping for a more targeted and accelerated response from the government..

It now appears the IT skills category has been merged into the Skilled Independent category, while the Business Innovation and Investment category, which was tech heavy, has been slashed _ down from 13,500 to just 5,000.

Business backs migration

Big business says it sees migration as an opportunity to reskill Australia. Business Council of Australian CEO **Jennifer Westacott** told a conference in Melbourne the permanent migration program should focus on 70 percent of skills.

“If we are going to reach that goal of 1.2 million tech jobs by 2030, we are going to have to bring people in from international markets. If we want to be a cyber secure country, we’ve got to bring in some of those world leading cyber experts,” said Westacott.

Companies, she said, are telling her it is bringing experts out to Australia who then allow them to scale up their business.

can be crafted to exploit the vulnerabilities and cause a crash. The cybersecurity group says the patch for OpenSSL versions above 3.x should be applied ASAP.

Aussies not using multi-factor authentication: Study

SYDNEY: Many Aussies don’t use multi-factor authentication security for internet accounts, despite the security benefits, according to a study by **Deakin University**.

“Adoption rates still hover around 50 percent, with only a little over half of those users finding it satisfactory,” said Deakin University researcher, **Robin Doss**.

Only one in 10 use physical authentication devices, which offer the highest level of security compared to other forms of multi-factor authentication.

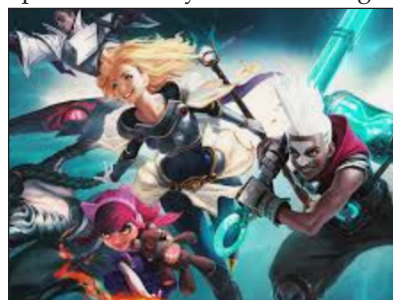
“We found that users had different notions of usable security depending on their age, education and experience. The top three usability features for each group differed by at least one feature,” Doss said.

He said cyber security applications and devices are currently available to organisations and individuals, but actual adoption rates remain troublingly low. One problem, he said may be the way those apps and devices are designed.

Govt reaffirms Digital Game tax offset for developers

CANBERRA: The Federal Government has confirmed a 30 percent refundable tax offset will be available to eligible games developers that spend a minimum of \$500,000 on qualifying Australian development expenditure.

The offset was announced in the budget and is aimed at promoting the growth of Australia’s digital games development industry and increasing our market share in the



rapidly expanding global sector.

“We’re committed to incentivising the industry’s growth here in Australia, and this offset will enable us to continue building a strong games and

interactive entertainment sector, which supports sharing culturally significant stories through creative vision,” said Arts Minister **Tony Burke**.

The video games sector is one of the world’s largest creative industries and is worth approximately \$250 billion of which Australian gaming studios contributed \$226.5 million.

Adelaide’s Big Middle scores new push for WalkMe deal

ADELAIDE: South Australian cloud systems operator **The Big Middle** has been tapped to handle a major new push by the Sydney-based **WalkMe** group.

Big Middle says its consultants have set up an engineering and project enablement program that can lead clients

through digital adoption systems and achieve specific business goals. Big Middle says it has built 20 WalkMe processes that can help Sutherland Shire Council users move to a powerful new finance-and-supply chain management system.

According to Middle CEO **Andrew McAdams**, this means the company is now able to set up a path that allows more organisations to quickly unlock value and support a long-term business strategy.

People, people

● **James Bubbers** has been named to head up **BlueApache**'s all-new business outfit, based in Melbourne. He has been charged with setting up dual employee and customer delivery teams, which the company believes can enhance both internal and external experiences.

● Cloud platform specialist **Nutanix** has named **Daryush Ashjari** as the new VP Asia-Pacific Japan (APJ) pre-sales team. Ashjari will be based in Sydney and replaces **Jeff Smith** as Nutanix's systems engineer.

● Construction software outfit **Last Minute** has made several new appointments including **Erica Price** as growth manager; **Anna-Kate Maguire** as A/NZ account executive, and accounts software specialist **Omar Ebrahimi**.

AMD revenue grows 29 percent

SAN FRANCISCO: Chipmaker AMD says its server chip business will grow in the quarters ahead, after reporting revenue of US\$5.57 billion, a 29 percent uplift.

Net income fell 93 percent to \$66 million, mainly because of AMD's \$49 billion acquisition in February of **Xilinx**, a maker of chips called field-programmable gate arrays.

AMD said its data-centre segment generated \$1.61 billion in revenue in the fiscal third quarter, up 45 percent. The unit includes contributions from Xilinx and distributed computing startup **Pensando**, which AMD bought for \$1.9 billion.

The chipmaker says it has seen healthy demand for shipments of its server chips that carry the code name **Genoa**. AMD plans to launch **Epyc** datacentre chips later this month.



US deploys battle command satellites via Falcon Heavy

KENNEDY SPACE CENTRE: **SpaceX**'s powerful Falcon Heavy has blasted off on its first mission in months, carrying multiple military satellites into orbit on a classified mission for the **US Space Force**.

The 230-foot-tall vehicle launched from the **Kennedy Space Centre** in Florida, but the exact nature of the payloads is a secret, though we do know that the mission concerns **Space Systems Command**'s (SSC) Innovation and Prototyping Delta.

INSIDE COMPUTER DAILY NEWS

Computer Daily News is published by David Frith Computer Services, 20 The Sanctuary, Umina Beach, NSW, 2257.

Phone: (02) 4381 2038

E-mail: davfrith@bigpond.com

Managing editor: David Frith

Co-editor: Kate Castellari - 0427907427

News editor: Chris Castellari - 0466115971

SSC is the US Space Force field command responsible for rapidly developing, acquiring, equipping, fielding and sustaining lethal and resilient space capabilities.



SSC mission capability areas include launch acquisition and operations, communications and positioning, navigation, and timing (PNT), space sensing, battle management command, control, and communications.

Cloud infrastructure market slows for the big three

SAN FRANCISCO: The cloud infrastructure market topped US\$57 billion for the quarter, up \$11 billion over the same period last year, according to **Synergy Research**.

That adds up to 24 percent growth indicating that while growth has slowed the market continues to perform well.

Of the big three, **Google Cloud** was the only one to gain share, up a tick to 11 percent, as the work that CEO **Thomas Kurian** is doing to build the business continues to pay dividends.

Meanwhile, **Amazon** held steady as the market leader at 34 percent, good for around US\$19 billion for the quarter, with **Microsoft** in second at 21 percent with revenue of almost \$12 billion.

Google's 11 percent came in at around \$6 billion.

Daixin Team targeting health agencies with ransomware

WASHINGTON: Federal agencies are warning of a threat group called **Daixin Team** that is using ransomware and data extortion tactics to target US healthcare organisations.

The **Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency** (CISA), **FBI**, and **US Department of Health and Human Services** (HHS) said the group has attacked multiple entities since at least June, deploying ransomware to encrypt data on servers used for a range of services, including electronic health records (EHRs), diagnostic, imaging, and intranet services.

Daixin Team also has exfiltrated personal identifiable information (PII) and patient health information (PHI) and threatened to release it if the demanded amount isn't paid.

Twitter ad revenue looks shaky

SAN FRANCISCO: Advertising giant Interpublic Group (IG) has recommended clients of its IPG Media Brands agencies suspend all paid advertising on Twitter for at least a week, following Elon Musk's US\$44 billion acquisition of the social media network.

Some of the agencies' clients include big spenders CVS Pharmacy, Nintendo and Unilever.

The company is reportedly telling clients to wait for clarity on the social network's plans for trust and safety, and to see whether Musk will be able to prevent Twitter from becoming, as he called it, a "free-for-all hellscape."

Twitter's advertising chief, Sarah Personette, has also resigned, following an exodus of nearly the entire senior ranks, including former Twitter CEO Parag Agrawal and CFO Ned Segal, whom Musk fired last week.

Micron ships latest DRAMs

SAN FRANCISCO: US based chip maker Micron Technology has started shipping samples of its most advanced DRAM chip based on the LPDDR5X, low-power double data rate 5X, standard to smartphone makers to test out.

The latest DRAM chip was made using Micron's most cutting-edge manufacturing technology, referred to as 1-beta.

The company ships its LPDDR5X DRAM chip manufactured with its 1-alpha technology in volume currently, and said the new 1-beta chip has 15 percent better power efficiency than the older version as well as a 35 percent improvement on the number of bits stored per area.

DRAM chips are memory chips that lose the memory when the power is off, while NAND chips store memory regardless of power.

China aims for 25M VR devices

HONG KONG: China has released its first action plan dedicated to virtual reality, with the aim for the industry to ship more than 25 million devices worth US\$48.20 billion by 2026.

The plan, published by five ministries in Beijing, led by the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology, categorised virtual reality as a key industry for the digital economy under the country's 14th five-year plan.

U.S. STOCK PRICES

Stock	Close	Change	52-wk range
Nasdaq	10890.85	-97.30	13,567 - 6631.4
Accenture	281.47	-2.43	225.74 - 137.1
Adobe	316.02	-2.48	470.61 - 255.13
Alphabet	90.47	-4.04	1587 - 1008.87
A M D	59.66	-0.40	78.96-27.43
Amazon	96.79	-5.65	3344.3 - 1626
Apple	150.65	-2.69	425.6 - 192.5
Atlassian	191.74	-10.99	98.41 - 107.00
Autodesk	214.05	-0.25	251.39 -125.38
Check Point	129.82	+0.59	30.65 - 80.06
Cisco	45.46	+0.03	4.32 - 32.40
Dell	39.15	+0.75	62.89- 25.51
Electronic Arts	126.27	+0.31	142.84 - 85.69
HP	27.85	+0.23	23.93 - 12.54
I B M	138.20	-0.09	158.75 - 90.56
Intel	28.30	-0.13	69.29 - 43.63
Lenovo	6.10	-0.21	17.60 - 35.94
Meta Platforms	95.20	+2.04	15.5 - 8.92
Microsoft	228.17	-3.96	216.38 - 130.78
Oracle	77.11	-0.96	57.84 - 39.71
Tesla	227.82	+0.28	620.57 - 1243.4
Twitter	138.70	0.00	45.86 - 20.00
Unisys	9.20	+0.70	18.13 - 6.39
VMware	112.62	+0.09	175.32 - 86.00
Xerox	15.10	+0.47	39.47 - 14.22
8x8	4.20	-0.03	25.40 - 10.70

AUSTRALIAN STOCK PRICES

Appen	2.64	-0.01	25.57 - 3.45
Kogan	3.38	0.00	25.57 - 3.45
Macquarie Telecom	57.90	+0.47	34.69 - 19.20
NextDC	8.67	-0.10	10.40 - 5.71
Symbio	3.36	+0.05	5.55 - 2.77
Technology One	12.18	-0.16	10.26 - 6.36
Telstra	3.89	-0.04	3.94 - 2.87
TPG Telecom	4.77	-0.13	5.44 - 7.25
WiseTech	57.75	-1.48	38.80 - 9.97
Xero	75.60	-2.68	72.53 - 156.65

SUBSCRIBE TO CDN - GET TODAY'S NEWS TODAY

Yearly - \$693

Monthly - \$66

Site licences - phone or e-mail for details

Yes, please, register me as a subscriber to Computer Daily News

Name Organisation

Mailing address

E-mail Voice phone

Please charge: Visa Mastercard Amex

Cardholders name

Expiry date

Card No.

Scan and e-mail to davfrith@bigpond.com
OR mail to: Computer Daily News
20 The Sanctuary, Umina Beach, NSW 2257