

*ours are using tech to change the way we work & live*

# APP DEVELOPERS FIND THEIR GROOVE

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Good times continue for app developers. Industry demand, the steady growth of data consumption and the proliferation of IoT-based devices (Internet of Things) have allowed several thousand innovators to develop apps that supplement daily life. Today, there's an app for everything — a 50MB download has the potential to replace your piano teacher.

But more importantly, vast swathes of the app development space is today occupied by youngsters. In India, there are developers as young as 15 using original ideas to take on products created by large IT firms.

Many of these ideas have been the result of early and effective industry-academia collaboration. For instance, the final-year computer department students at KJ Somaiya Institute of Engineering and Management research developed a mobile app which created a communication channel between the institute's administration and students — no more yellowing message boards. The app, developed by students Suraj Kadam, Akshay Mane, Atulkumar Mishra and Samarth Pote, beams all notices, including ones announcing academic achievements and events, directly to students' mobile phones.

"The app also has a facility to keep track of students'



**NICHE MARKET:** Third-year computer engineering students, Rohan Malji, Pratik Swami, Shubham Shelke and Nishank Prabhune, all from the Vishwakarma University, developed an app to help a foundry change its workflow management

attendance. It has a separate login for staff. Also, students can use the platform to discuss projects and research work," said Suraj. Chantbas Kalge, a third-year computer science student, from the G H Raisoni Institute of Engineering and Technology has managed to compress computer science course material into an app. "I would often spend time on the Internet looking for books and other essential references. The process was time-consuming. So, I decided to develop a tutorial app to help second and third-year university students find the right references for programming subjects," Chantbas said.

He has completed one module already, which is available on the app. Also available are topics covering data structures and algorithms. The app was developed in September this year and so far, has had over 100 downloads. But apps are going beyond the campus too. In 2017, students of the Symbiosis Institute of Technology (SITY) developed an app that allowed shoppers at supermarkets to self-check-out purchases. It relies on a series of simple steps: Customers must first select the supermarket; they are in on app; they must then add the products they have selected to the app; and then, after shopping, pay online. There's no need for a physical check-out counter. After payment, the app generates a QR code,

la, founder Zwing said. "We now have more than 500 customers in our group company and adding more."

Others have developed apps that change the way we use mobile phones. Gaurav Ghongde, a final-year B.Tech student of the Pimpri Chinchwad College of Engineering, created Minify, which tracks smartphone usage. "The app allows people to monitor their smartphone use. They can even set timers on installed apps such as Facebook," Gaurav said. "The idea was an attempt to fight phone addiction."

"I used to spend a lot of time on social media apps and games. I soon realised there's a need for an app that limits smartphone usage. I searched on Playstore, but couldn't find one. So I decided to make my own."

Apps are also being developed for specific use. Third-year computer engineering students Rohan Malji, Pratik Swami, Shubham Shelke and Nishank Prabhune, all from the Vishwakarma University developed an app for a foundry.

"Operational details at the site were being entered manually. It was tedious job, and manual entry of data almost always includes errors. But app can now generate valuable analytics the foundry can use to improve workflow. Basically, the app helped the unit change the way it works within three months," said a member of the team.

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**Gaurav Ghongde |  
BTech Student, Pimpri Chinchwad  
College of Engineering, and  
Creator of Minify**

which customers can show the guards before leaving the supermarket.

The app, called Zwing, was recently acquired by Ginni Systems. It has been deployed by V-Mart across its 190 stores, and by supermarket giant Spar, across 20 hypermarkets. Rishabh Shuk-