



J I M S V I R T U A L W O R L D

A WEEKLY NEWSLETTER BY THE MCA DEPARTMENT

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'Black box' is generally orange and far from cockpit

Usually painted bright orange to help easy retrieval, a black box is a combination of two devices mounted at the rear of an aircraft not the cockpit, since that is the area normally least affected during air crashes, experts explain. It is called black box because of the tragic circumstances in which the system is generally retrieved and has nothing to do with the colour of its outer casing. In aviation parlance, it is actually a loose term used for two crucial pieces of equipment -- the digital cockpit voice recorder and the flight data recorder -- that give crucial inputs to investigators on the causes of air mishaps. One device digitally records all conversations inside the cockpit and those with the air traffic controllers, among its other uses, and gives vital clues to the cause of any air disaster. The other has the history of the aircraft's flight details, such as acceleration, engine thrust, airspeed, altitude, rudder position, which are also vital for crash probes. A sturdy system the size of a shoebox, it has a reflective tape on its exterior and can withstand extreme temperatures. It has a solid steel encasing and heat-resistant material to withstand heavy impact and raging fire, the experts said. The box also has an underwater locating device, which gets activated immediately upon contact with water and helps in its retrieval should an aircraft sink in a water body. 'The recorded data can be analysed for the purpose of checking deviations in flight parameters beyond acceptable limits which are critical to flight safety,'

Ubi Surfer

Data Wind Ltd, a provider of wireless web access products and services, has announced the launch of Ubi Surfer, its ultra-portable netbook with Internet connectivity. The Ubi Surfer offers Data Wind's free-usage model, in which you pay for the device and not the usage. For the average user, there are no monthly fees, airtime tariffs, contracts or recurring fees. The netbook comes bundled with 30 hours per month of free Internet access for the first year, useable across India. For regular surfers, unlimited Internet is available for Rs 99 a month and each subsequent year of usage costs Rs 999. The Internet is powered by Tata Teleservices' CDMA network. It comes pre-loaded with the Microsoft Windows CE 6.0 operating system and Soft-maker Office Suite, which lets users open, edit and save MS Office 2003 Word, Excel or PowerPoint files, retaining all the contents of the original files. Ubi Surfer weighs 700g. It comes with 128 MB RAM and 1 GB flash memory. (Contributed by Ms C. Komallavalli)



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