

MANILA BULLETIN

Published on *The Manila Bulletin Newspaper Online* (<http://www.mb.com.ph>)

[Home](#) > When being nice doesn't pay

When being nice doesn't pay

Competitiveness – it is a buzz word that many executives use to justify the courses of actions they force their companies to take. More often than not, those actions have to do with reducing their workforces, or raising their workers' production quotas.

"We're sorry, Jose. But we have to let you go, along with hundreds of your mates." The senior executives would usually add, "The company is bleeding, and we have got to stop the hemorrhage or the company's dead in a few months."

Yes, as if Jose would find any consolation in the thought that the company he's worked for decades would survive because he is getting laid off. It is a never-ending cycle. Boom time comes, and everybody is hiring. Something that resembles a recession comes a-rolling, and every other company is spooked and promptly fires people.

And life goes on; except, of course, for those who get their separation pays.

Dell Recovers

PC vendor Dell showed revenue numbers better than Wall Street's forecasts. The company said its net income for its latest quarter, which ended on October 29, grew more than 100% from \$337 million to \$822 million.

Unlike networking equipment vendor Cisco Systems Inc., which said it got fewer orders from its public-sector customers, Dell said its revenue from the government sector increased 20% to \$4.4 billion.

The company's desktop and laptop computer business accounted for 56% of Dell's revenue for the quarter.

Dell's financial performance is considered by IT industry analysts as one of the major barometers of the industry's health. This means, therefore, that the high-tech industry is about to have a great holiday season.

New Supercomputer Criteria

Barely weeks after a supercomputer from China was declared the world's fastest, along comes Sandia National Laboratories, proposing a new set of criteria for evaluating supercomputers. The Graph500 challenge tests supercomputers' processing power for solving intricate problems that entail randomized graphs. The testing process does not include solving basic number problems.

The Graph500 Challenge was co-developed with researchers from the Georgia Institute of Technology, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and Indiana University.

Naturally, several organizations, whose supercomputers were on the previous list of the fastest supercomputers, were not particularly enthusiastic to join the challenge.

No Respite for Pirates

Soon, U.S. law enforcers will have more legal tools to go after online pirates, even those who are operating overseas. The Combating Online Infringement and Counterfeits Act, which is supported by the entertainment and publishing industries, was approved by the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee.

The proposed legislation provides the U.S. Department of Justice with an expedited process for going after Web sites that conduct piracy, or sell counterfeit goods.

With bipartisan support, the bill is likely to strengthen the long arm of the law; American law, that is.

That's all for the meantime, folks. Join me again next time as we keep on watching IT.

Source URL: <http://www.mb.com.ph/articles/289193/when-being-nice-doesnt-pay>
Copyright 2010. Manila Bulletin | All Rights Reserved