

Web Tech

The great browser war

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In the vast realms of this new world called the Internet, the next interesting thing, the next vital information or the next relevant search is only a click away. Click an icon and off you go surfing the worldwide web.

Before we go hopping off, let us pay a bit of credit where it is due - the web browsers.

Without the web browsers, the Internet would be nothing but a great jumble of electronic signals. The web browsers enable us to hop from one site to the other, view graphics and make possible just about everything that you see on the screen. Simply put, the browsers translate Greek or Latin into something we understand.

Where did it all begin? Do we know that a full-scale war has been on over browser dominance? A war it has indeed been between Microsoft's Internet Explorer and Netscape Communication's Netscape Navigator. Now, the war is still on, albeit in a much lesser intensity.

Nowadays if you go about asking what browser one uses, especially in our country where 95 per cent of the computer users use one version or another of Microsoft's Windows operating systems, the (only) answer is Internet Explorer. Frankly, it is a wonder that some of us have heard of Netscape. It was different even a few days back, when this 'computer technology' had first started emerging in Bangladesh. 'Advanced' nations of the world back then were in a dilemma -- Internet Explorer or Netscape.

Let us see how it all began. The first web browser was written by Tim Berners-Lee when he was at CERN (a European centre for physics research). However, the first web browser to capture the public interest was Mosaic, which was written by Marc Andreessen and other under-

graduate students at the National Centre for Supercomputing Applications (NCSA) in the United States.

Andreessen was a student of the University of Illinois when he started working and was a leader of a software project called Mosaic. Soon Mosaic began to make splashes outside the academic circle and in mid-1994, Andreessen had just graduated then and together with Silicon Graphics founder Jim Clark founded Mosaic Communications.

The University of Illinois almost immediately sued. The company announced settlement of the suit at the Comdex conference in the fall of 1994. As part of the settlement, Andreessen and Clark agreed to rename their company Netscape Communications.

Netscape quickly became a success, and the overwhelming market share it soon had was due to many factors, not the least of which was its break-neck pace of software releases. It also created, innovated and enhanced at an incredible pace. In the form of "extensions" to the language, new HTML capabilities were introduced. Since these capabilities were often more eye-catching than what other run-of-the-mill browsers could produce, Netscape's browser established its dominance.

In 1995, Netscape had the third largest ever Initial Product Offering (IPO) on the NASDAQ stock exchange. By the summer of 1995, it was a good bet that if you were browsing the Internet, you were doing so with a Netscape browser. Netscape had as much as an 80 per cent-plus market share.

In the meantime, Microsoft Corporation quickly began to see the potential on the Internet.

In August 1995, it launched Windows 95 and also a web browser of its own -- Internet Explorer. Microsoft had begun its challenge against Netscape.

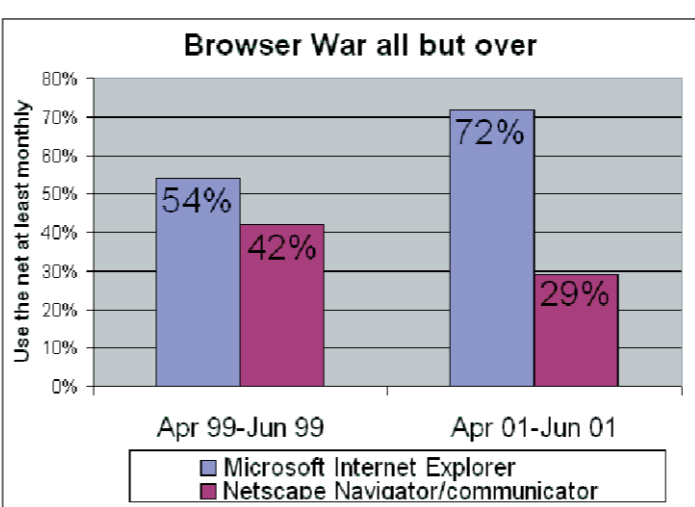
The original Internet Explorer 1.0 browser code was licensed from Spyglass, a commercial arm for the NCSA Mosaic browser work. But the Microsoft team quickly modified the original codebase. The first two product cycles occurred within a very short span of time, and allowed the browser to gain a little bit of ground against its main rival Netscape.

But Internet Explorer had an advantage that Netscape Navigator did not. Internet Explorer was bundled free of charge with Microsoft's already popular Windows 95 as opposed to Netscape Navigator that people had to pay for. In spite of that war raged on and Internet Explorer had to put up quite a struggle.

The infamous browser war and the race really began in earnest when Netscape Navigator launched its 2.0 version, which introduced more wonderful features like Java script, frames and plug-in technology. The 2.0 boosted Netscape Navigator forward in spite of its price tags. It seemed like Internet Explorer would forever have to play second to Netscape's dominant position.

Mid-1995 to late-1996 was a very busy time for both the browsers. It seemed almost every week one or the other was releasing a new beta or final version. By the time Internet Explorer 3.0 was released, it was much closer to Netscape Navigator in its features.

However, it was not until the companies released their fourth



generation browsers that a decided turning point took place in the so-called "war." Internet Explorer 4.0 was a great leap ahead of its previous versions. Technologically Internet Explorer caught up to its rivals. It gradually gained market share grounds and Netscape Navigator's decreased from its high percentages.

For quite some time after the release of Internet Explorer 4.0, Netscape did not release a major new version of its browser. By this time, Internet Explorer had gained dominance in the market and commanded 60 per cent of the shares against Netscape's 30 per cent.

In January 1998, and a bit too late, Netscape announced that their browser would thereafter be free and that the development of the browser would move to an open-source process. In November 1998, AOL bought over Netscape and it ceased to exist as an independent company.

Netscape released its 6.0 version in 2000 but it was not well received. It is regarded by some as the greatest mistake in Netscape history. However, its latest version 7.0 released in August 2002 was better accepted. However, in December the same year, major layoffs at the Netscape headquarters took place. From the approximately 75 programmers working on Netscape browser only six were left to directly work on Netscape. The rest was either fired or relocated with AOL to work on other things.

Many believe that only one company can save Netscape. And that ironically is its parent company AOL. Roughly one-third of all net users pass through AOL. If the online giant were to make Netscape Navigator its official browser, it would create huge momentum.

Unfortunately, AOL chooses not to and Netscape Navigator continues to fade away.

Tech Snaps

KOICA IT laboratories at the University of Dhaka

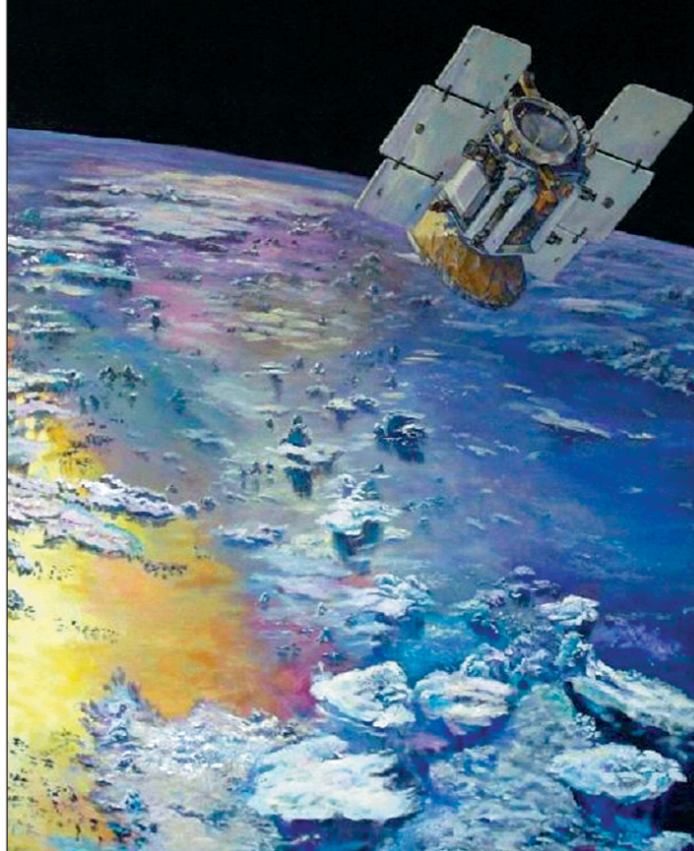
Two modern IT laboratories under the financial grant of USD \$ 700, 000 by the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) of the Government of the Republic of Korea were inaugurated on January 22, 2003 at the Institute of Information Technology (IIT), University of Dhaka.

Dr. Abdul Moyeen Khan, Honorable Minister of Science and Information & Communication Technology inaugurated the laboratories as chief guest while Kyu Hyung Lee, Korean Ambassador in Bangladesh, Kyung Soo Lee, Executive Director of KOICA and Professor SMA Faiz, vice chancellor, University of Dhaka graced the ceremony as special guests. The two laboratories were established as a Project-type cooperation by KOICA under which 70 personal computers, several server machines, full range of laboratory equipment as well as training of the Dhaka University personnel in Korea were provided.

Certified courses on Web Technology

Swiss based internet technology training centre World Wide Web Institute is offering 50% discount on their certified courses in internet and network technology. These courses include, Certified Web Developer (CWD), Certified Web Master (CWM), Certified Web Commerce Master (CWC), Linux Apache MySQL and PHP (LAMP) etc. For more information interested persons may contact 25, Elephant Road (2nd Floor), Dhaka 1205. Phone 8626097.

Photo Tech



This artist's conception obtained from NASA 17 January 2003 shows CloudSat, the most advanced radar designed to measure the properties of clouds. CloudSat will provide the first global measurements of cloud thickness, height, water and ice content, and a wide range of precipitation data linked to cloud development. The Earth System Science Pathfinder Mission is expected to improve weather forecasting and advance our understanding of key climate processes during its two-year design lifetime. CloudSat is planned for launch in 2004.



Dr. Tech

Dear Dr. Tech,
Sometimes when I uninstall a program it still appears on my Add/ Remove programs list? The program is gone, but its entry is still there. How can I get rid of it?
Safa
Dear Safa,
When that happens, most people click the program, hit the Add / Remove button and end up with an error. And the program is still stuck on the list. It may have been removed from your computer, but its ghost seems determined to stay on.
So, is the program listing there forever? Can you ever get rid of it? YES - but you have to play around in your system registry.
Before we go any farther, I want to say that messing with your registry is not for everyone and should only be attempted by advanced users. If any of the information below does not make sense to you, it is probably NOT a good idea for you to be trying this tip. So, do this only at your own risk. If something gets messed up, I do not want to hear about it :-)
Here's the procedure:
1. Run your registry editor by hitting the **Start** button, **Run**, Then type: **regedit**
Hit Enter.
2. Your registry editor should now be up and running. Now would be a good time to back up your registry by hitting the **File** menu, **Export Registry**. Just in case.
3. OK, now navigate to: **HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\Software\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Uninstall**
4. Under this Uninstall folder, you'll see all the stuff that's listed on the Add / Remove programs list. Find the folder for the program that's stuck in your Add / Remove programs box, **right-click**, and select **Delete** from the resulting menu.
Now, go back to your Control Panel, Add / Remove programs area and you should find that extra program is now gone.
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Space Tech

Something smells sweet on shuttle space mission

REUTERS, Cape Canaveral

EXPERT sniffers from the perfume industry are anticipating some other-worldly fragrance treats from a flower experiment being nurtured onboard space shuttle Columbia's 16-day science mission.

Alongside experiments aimed at reducing air pollution and prostate cancer, astronauts are collecting essential oils from Jerry O roses and Asian rice flowers as their delicate buds bloom in a special container on the SPACEHAB module, project director Dr. Weijia Zhou said on Wednesday.

Zhou, speaking at a mission status briefing, said experiments on a previous shuttle mission showed that the essential oil of a rose is altered by micro-gravity to create an all-new scent.

Although both smell tests and laboratory analysis confirmed the new aroma, Zhou and professional perfumers struggle to describe it.

"What we thought was it was something that was a little out of this world," said Jan Little, spokeswoman for International Flavors and Fragrances Inc. of New York.

IFF, the world's No. 1 fragrance maker, is the commercial partner on the flower experiments following the success of its earlier space rose scent.

Oils extracted from an Overnight Scentsation rose launched in 1998 aboard space shuttle Discovery lead to the creation of a new scent that has been incorporated into a perfume called Zen by Shiseido and a body spray called Impulse by Unilever.



Astronaut US Kalpana Chawla (Indian born) works in the SPACEHAB Research Double Module, 18 January 2003, aboard the Space Shuttle Columbia.

Little said the search is always on for new scents to satisfy customer demand and changing tastes. The current experiment not only uses a different type of rose but seeks to combine the scents of the rose and rice flowers which are housed in one container.

As the flowers bloom and emit their essential oils, Zhou said astronauts collect the specimens by holding absorbent needles above the petals.

If the resulting fragrance is pleasing to professional sniffers, Zhou said, the new scent can be synthesized on Earth. Some of the samples were taken on Wednesday. The mission's crew of seven includes Israel's first astronaut, Ilan Ramon. The shuttle launched last week from Kennedy Space Center in Florida and is scheduled to land on Feb. 1.

Tech Toon



"I'M LOOKING FOR RELATIONSHIP ADVICE. I'M IN LOVE ... WITH A FLEA ... AND SHE'S MARRIED!"

Star Tech Quiz 24

Check the box beside the correct answer

1. Which of the following can be used to increase the security of an Internet-connected computer?

Anti-virus software Firewall

Good security procedure All of the above

2. Which network topology uses hubs to connect devices?

Bus Star

Ring None of the above

3. SCSI is an acronym for Simple Connection Standard Interface

True False

Name: _____ Occupation: _____

Address: _____

Contact Number: _____ E-mail: _____

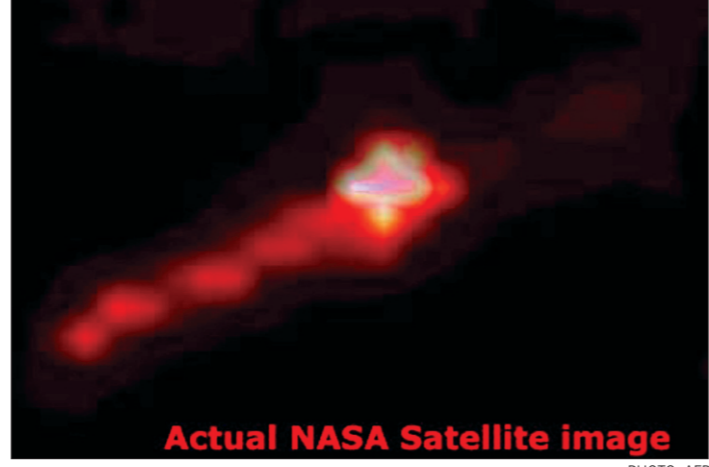
Last week's answers

1. Ping 2. RJ-45 3. False

Winners: None

Please fill this up and send your answers to Star Tech Quiz, The Daily Star, 19 Karwan Bazaar, Dhaka 1215 by January 29, 2003.

The truth is out there



Actual NASA Satellite image

A undated handout image taken by the Solar and Heliospheric Observatory (SOHO), a spacecraft a million miles from Earth observing the sun. UFO group Euroset that claims the images to be a proof of alien UFOs will show the images to members of the public at the National Space Centre, Leicester, later this month, it was revealed 15 January 2003. Nasa originally dismissed the images as being the result of a camera fault but UFO investigators are convinced they are spacecraft flown by aliens.

Tech Jobs

- Bata Shoe Co (Bangladesh) Ltd**
Position: MIS Officer
Last Date: February 04, 2003
- (A Multinational Company)**
Position: EDP/IT Officer
Last Date: February 06, 2003
- Axiom Technologies Ltd**
Position: Sr. Faculty
Last Date: January 30, 2003
- Acme Laboratories Ltd.**
Position: Manager (IT)
Last Date: February 06, 2003
- (A Foreign Company)**
Position: Computer Design Engineer, Computer System Engineer
Last Date: January 30, 2003
- The Peoples University of Bangladesh**
Position: Professor in Computer Science and Engineering, Lecturer in Computer Science
Last Date: January 30, 2003
- Total Software Solution**
Position: System Analyst, Programmer
Last Date: January 30, 2003
- Probit Systems Limited**
Position: Programmer, Technical Writer
Last Date: January 31, 2003
- source: www.bjjobs.com

Best 10 Websites Category: New Technology & Storage Solutions

- New Technology**
- GoToMyPC**
Access and Control Your Computer...
URL: <https://www.GoToMyPC.com>
- TechnoScout.com**
TechnoScout.com, your home for high-tech solutions. Our award-winning website is a one-stop source for everything you need to take advantage of the newest innovations.
URL: <http://www.technoscout.com>
- Discovery.com**
Discovery is reaching beyond the television screen to bring the wonder and mystery of our world home to you. We've scoured the globe to find you the most informative, interactive and engaging products around.
URL: <http://www.discovery.com>
- iConnectHere.com**
iConnectHere is a communication portal that offers a suite of products that can be accessed from a single account.
URL: <http://www.icconnecthere.com>
- inphonic.com**
InPhonic is the leading end-to-end solutions provider in the development and management of Virtual Private Wireless Networks.
URL: <http://www.inphonic.com>
- Storage Solutions**
- IBM**
At IBM, we strive to lead in the creation, development and manufacture of the industry's most advanced information technologies, including computer systems, software, networking systems, storage devices and microelectronics.
URL: <http://www.ibm.com>
- iomega**
Established in 1980, Iomega Corporation provides personal storage solutions that help people share, manage, protect and enjoy their digital lives.
URL: <http://www.iomega.com>
- Computer Peripherals Unlimited Inc.**
Since 1989, Computer Peripherals Unlimited, Inc. has been a leading supplier of tape and disk systems, allowing for reliable, high-performance backup, data interchange and mass storage.
URL: <http://www.cpuinc.com>
- HardwareBuyLine.com**
HardwareBuyLine.com is a comprehensive computer hardware and consumer electronics superstore with more than 50,000 products organized into easy-to-shop categories
URL: <http://www.hardwarebuyline.com>