

## Tech News

# Introducing VDSL

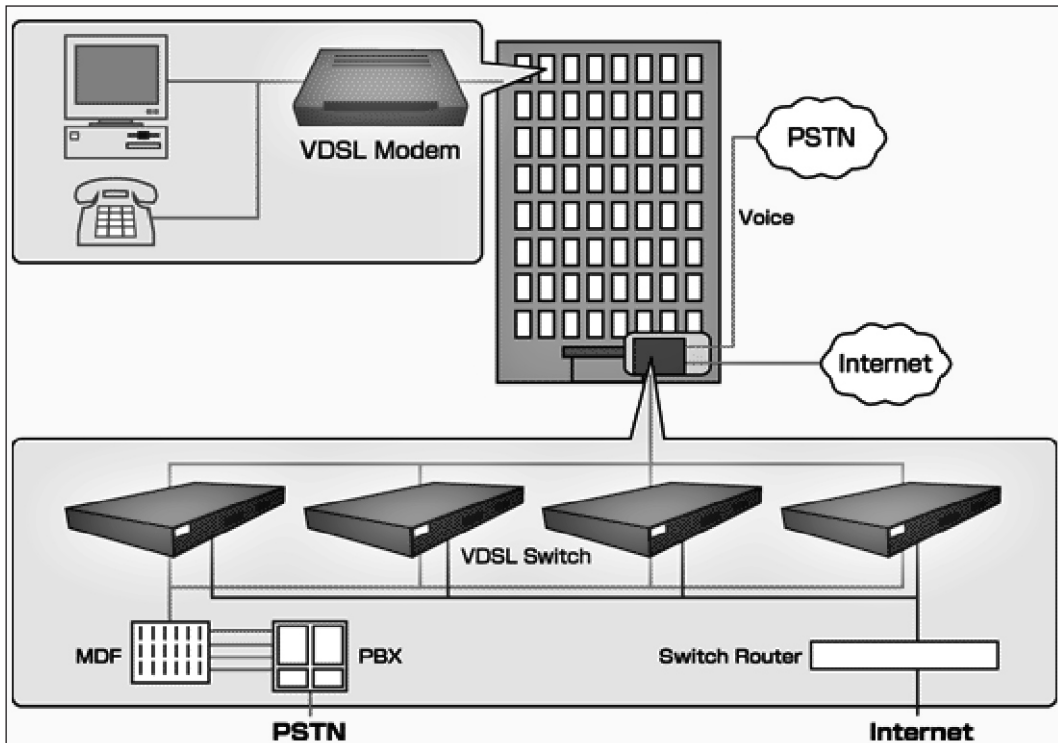
SMC Networks and Sirius Broadband bring VDSL technology to Bangladesh

NAFID IMRAN AHMED

THE familiar sound of the dial-up modem is almost fading away. The use of fast Internet connections has grown rapidly over the last few years. As internet dependency is growing day by day, demand for broadband (high-speed) connections is increasing. At present two technologies, cable modems and Asymmetric Digital Subscriber Line (ADSL) dominate the industry.

While both of these technologies provide Internet connections that are many times faster than a 56K modem, they still are not fast enough to support the integration of corporate services such as voice transmission and Video-on-Demand. However, another DSL technology known as Very High bit-rate Digital Subscriber Line (VDSL) is seen by many as the next step in providing a complete communications package.

World famous network appliances manufacturing company SMC Networks, together with Sirius



The VDSL system of a building

Broadband (BD) Limited, one of the foremost ISP (Internet Service Provider) of the country are introducing VDSL technology. This was announced at the introduction ceremony and press meeting held in a city restaurant on April 20. Sena Kallyan Bhaban, the tallest office building in Dhaka will be their first VDSL project.

SMC and Sirius Broadband's Sena Kallyan Bhaban VDSL solution will be worth USD 50,000. Once the VDSL installation is complete, Sirius will be able to offer the following facilities to the tenants of Sena Kallyan Bhaban:

- Data sharing from any corner of the building
- Voice and video transmission throughout the building
- Dedicated high speed internet access (up to 11 megabits per second) to any office in the building
- Close-circuit security camera inside the lift and other places in and outside the building

"The Sena Kallyan Bhaban is fully occupied and all 19 floors have a common existing Electronic Private Automatic Branch Exchange (EPABX) and Sirius is looking for a solution that will allow them to provide internet access with minimum disturbance", said Milind Kamat, country manager for SMC Networks, India and SAARC region while making a presentation at

the ceremony.

As VDSL operates over the copper wires in phone line it minimises the hassles involved in rewiring. VDSL delivers both data and voice access on the same line as Plain Old Telephone Service (POTS), digital telephone and ISDN traffic. Thus it will save the cost of extra 200 pairs of telephone cable.

VDSL can achieve incredible speeds, as high as 52 megabits per second (Mbps) downstream and 16

Mbps upstream. That is much faster than ADSL, which provides up to 8 Mbps downstream and 800 Kbps (kilobits per second) upstream for up to 5,000 feet.

The Sena Kallyan Bhaban project will consist of SMC's TigerAccess™ Extended Ethernet (EE) VDSL modem, TigerAccess™ Extended Ethernet (EE) Splitter, TigerAccess™ Extended Ethernet (EE) Switch and TigerSwitch™ layer 2 switches.

## Tech Contest

### In search of brilliant minds

AIUB Talent Search 2003

SAAD BIN FAZLE HAMMADI

AMERICAN International University of Bangladesh (AIUB) and IT magazine eBiz jointly took the initiative to find out hidden talents in the field of information technology. Their first talent search programme, a programming contest was held on April 19 at the IT department of AIUB in Dhaka. Participants of this contest were selected from all six divisions of the country.

The contest was based on analytical, mathematical and logical problems. More than 150 teams took part in the contest. The panel of judges were Carmen Z Lamagna, vice chancellor AIUB, Dr. Anwarul Abedin, chairman AIUB, Prof. Zafar Iqbal, head of CSE dept. SUST, Syhlet, Mostafa Shamsul Islam, managing director of Flora Ltd, Nadia Anwar, founder director & student affairs AIUB, Dr. M Kaykobad,

Prof. CSE dept, BUET, and Shakhawat Alam Rano, executive editor, eBiz.

"The Backtrackers" of Notre Dame College, Dhaka snatched away the first position obtaining 126 marks while "Residential Model" team from Dhaka Residential Model College walked away with the second position obtaining 110 marks and the third team was 'Futurez' from Notre Dame College Dhaka obtaining 96 marks.

The prize giving ceremony was held in the evening. "AIUB hopes to hold such events every year to bring out more talents and thereby develop this nation," said Carmen Z.Lamagna while speaking at the occasion.

Contests like these encourage students and boost them up. It also teaches them to face future challenges. These hidden talents can take our country to a new height and compete with the rest of the world.

## Tech Snaps

### National Electronics & IT Exhibition and Seminar

Bangladesh Electronics Society in co-operation with the Ministry of Science and Information & Communication Technology will hold National Electronics & IT Exhibition, seminar and annual conference of the society from April 24 at the Bangladesh China Friendship Conference Hall. The exhibition will continue till April 26.

### CSL to implement software for SQ Group

SQ Group of Industries, a sweater manufacturing and exporting house of the country, signed an agreement with CSL Software Resources Ltd (CSRL), a local software development company for the implementation of an ERP solution for RMG sector known as 'Kandaree™', says a press release.

### Award ceremony

A Stipend Awarding Ceremony for the students of the Dept. of Computer Science & Engineering (CSE), Darul Ihsan University (DIU) was held on April 17 at their CSE Campus, Dhanmondi, says a press release. Prof. Dr M Azhar-ud-Din, vice chancellor (acting) was present as chief guest. Around 114 meritorious students of various batches of CSE Dept were awarded for achieving high grades in the Winter Semester-2002.

## Photo Tech



PHOTO: AFP

Honda's humanoid robot, Asimo (R) welcomes visitors at the Takashimaya department store in Tokyo on April 21, during its debut as a store clerk for customer services for a one-year contract.

## Best 10 Websites

Category: Hobbies Stamp Collecting



**Century Stamps**  
Almost 2900 quality stamps online. Photos of many for your viewing pleasure. Check periodically to see stamps available for purchase.  
URL: <http://www.century-stamps.com>



**Linn's Stamp News**  
The Internet's largest weekly stamp news and Marketplace  
URL: <http://www.linns.com/default.asp>



**The Faroe Stamp Site**  
This site primarily displays Faroe Islands stamp collection and other items. The site is constantly changing and varies items on display from time to time.  
URL: <http://www.faroestampsite.com>



**Sea Turtle Postage Stamps of the World**  
This site has been on the net since November 12, 1996, solely for the enjoyment of other collectors and sea turtle enthusiasts. Not dealers, and no stamps are sold here!  
URL: <http://www.2xtreme.net/nlinsley>



**S.C. Virtes Stamps**  
Whether you are a beginner or an advanced collector, there should be something here for you!  
URL: <http://www.scvs.com/stamp>



**Philately.net**  
A whole set of 2000 collections of different stamps from all over the world categorized by continent and featuring 393 countries.  
URL: <http://www.philately.net>



**The Archer Collection**  
"made by a Stamp Collector... for Stamp Collectors"  
URL: <http://www.archerstamps.com/>



**NetCollection**  
One of the web's largest stamp sites. ENetcollection has 1306Elinks to 88 countries!  
URL: <http://www.netcollection.com/>



**StampSites.com**  
The Search Engine for Stamp Collectors. Use StampSites.com, a new stamp-collecting search engine from Linn's.com, to search the Internet for more than 20,000 stamp collecting web pages!  
URL: <http://www.stampsites.com>



**American Historic Society**  
Magnificent collections, jewelry and accessories. The American Historic Society is your assurance of the quality and authenticity that make these collectibles a lasting value.  
URL: <http://www.ahs.com>

## Dr. Tech

Dear Dr. Tech,

How can I create a system disk from control panel and reinstall my PC? I am using WIN98 2nd edition. Tan

Dear Tan,

To make a boot disk for win98 follow these steps:  
1. Open Control Panel and then click the Add/Remove Programs icon. Then click the Startup Disk Tab.  
2. Insert a blank formatted floppy disk and then click the 'Create Disk' button.

You should now have a bootable disk.  
To reinstall windows here are some other stuff you might need:  
- Your Windows CD  
- Your Video/AGP, Sound Card etc. driver CDs  
Speaking of Windows, make sure that you have the Full Version of Windows on CD. If you only have an upgrade

version, you'll need to find an older version before you can install.

If you want to format your drive, make sure you backup all your useful files to another drive such as D:\ or E:\.  
Now insert your boot-disk into the floppy drive and start your PC, make sure the boot sequence starts with floppy drive in your BIOS settings. Once booted you will be given two options, start with CD ROM drive. When done, go to your CD ROM drive and then go to the "Win98" directory. The Windows setup files lies in this directory. Type "setup" and then follow the on-screen instructions. Remember to write down the CD key, you will be prompted for it. Once the windows setup finishes, install the hardware drivers and then other software. Best of luck.  
dailystartech@yahoo.com

## Tech Toon



"I tried to write my school report about Antarctica, but the computer kept freezing. So I changed my topic to Hawaii."

## Star Tech Quiz

36

Check the box beside the correct answer

1. Which of the following is not related to programming?

- Subroutine  Null pointer  
 Compile  Interleave

2. Which of the following is the directory commonly used to store a website?

- /home  /home\_html  
 /public  /public\_html

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Number: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

### Last week's answers

1. All of the above 2. Available System RAM & Free space on the hard disk

### Winners: None

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

## Digital Tech

# Digital flower keeps tabs on love

BBC ONLINE

TECHNOLOGY is enabling us to keep in touch with each other far more easily but it is not often aesthetically pleasing.

At the Human Connectedness Group at The Media Labs Europe in Dublin researchers are determined to change that.

Cian Cullinan has come up with an eye-pleasing way to keep in touch with his girlfriend Ciara, via a fake potted plant that opens up into a beautiful flower when she logs on to her computer.

"I wanted to build something that gave a sense of physical presence, he said.

"A real thing in the real world that gives me a rough idea of where she is and what she is doing."

### Synchronised love

When the flower opens up, it triggers thoughts of Ciara and consequently strengthens the relationship, said Cullinan.

"It has changed how we use e-mail and the phone and we are a lot more synchronised now," he said.

The plant has a wireless connection to Cullinan's computer which in turn is connected to his girlfriend's computer.

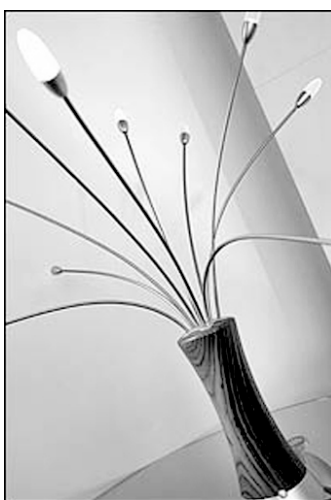
The flower closes when his girlfriend logs off from her



The flower opens when Cian's girlfriend logs on



Underneath the pot the flower is not so pretty



The flower wilts if relationships are not maintained

computer.

So far she has nothing on her desk to represent her boyfriend's movement, although if he developed something it would be likely to be "something more boyish than a pink flower", Cullinan told the BBC's Go Digital radio programme.

### Flower power

The idea of having the complicated communication systems that allow us to keep in touch with friends and family represented in the physical world is gaining ground.

Last year BT's research wing BTexact came up with a digital flower on which each stem represented selected individuals.

The stem drooped if that relationship was neglected but

when the individual was contacted electronically, the flower grew more upright.

The buds of the flower lit up when a call was received from a friend or when the service had something to report.

"The success of internet-based search engines that help reunite old friends and family shows that people want to maintain remote friendships, but with today's hectic lifestyles these relationships are often neglected," said Matt Lawson, Head of BTexact's multimedia lab.

"Our relationship minder allows the user to programme the interface to offer a gentle reminder when a relationship is in need of contact," he added.

## Detecting Death



PHOTO: AFP

A researcher of the Hamburg based Artus bio-technology company displays the first test kit which it said can detect SARS in Hamburg on April 15. Artus developed the kits in collaboration with the Bernard Nocht tropical medicine institute, which believes it identified two weeks ago the virus that probably causes SARS.

## Tech Jobs

**EATL-IECB (EI) Consortium**  
Post: Supervisor  
Last Date: April 26, 2003

**Sonic-IT Ltd**  
Post: Contract Software Developer  
Last Date: April 30, 2003

**(A leading IT Company)**  
Post: Senior Manager  
Last Date: May 05, 2003

**Military Collegiate School, Phultala**  
Post: Assistant Teacher - Computer Science, Social Science, Mathematics, Botany/Agriculture.  
Last Date: May 10, 2003

**Economic Development & Energy of Nation (EDEN)**  
Post: Computer Instructor (Male/ Female)  
Last Date: Friday, April 25, 2003

**X-Net Ltd**  
Post: Engineer: Network Operations - Technical Division  
Last Date: April 30, 2003

**Dhakarchithi**  
Post: Technical Executive  
Last Date: April 30, 2003

**BIT(Chittagong)**  
Post: Programmer, Assistant Programmer  
Last Date: May 04, 2003

**Alphasoft Systems**  
Post: Software Developments  
Last Date: May 06, 2003

**Australasia Institute of Business and Technology**  
Post: System Engineer  
Last Date: April 30, 2003  
source: [www.bdjobs.com](http://www.bdjobs.com)