Tech Seminar

Azmat H Anis

Mantra for high business growth

Seminar on 'Trends in Development of Information Technology and Opportunities for Bangladesh'

SADIA MAHFUZ

A leading IT expert at a recent seminar in the city has floated the concept of Customer Value Creation (CVC) to assist customers in evaluating/enabling IT projects to meet business needs.

The seminar on "Trends in Development of Information Technology and Opportunities for Bangladesh" was held at the BRAC University (BU) on July 6. The keynote paper was presented by Azmat H Anis, chief technologist, Corporate Accounts Business, Hewlett Packard (HP), USA.

Professor Jamilur Reza Chowdhury, vice-chancellor, BRAC University, Abdul-Muyeed Chowdhury, executive director, BRAC, senior faculty members, students of BU and scores of IT professionals were also present.

The seminar started with the welcome speech by Dr.

Md. Sayeed Salam of the Department of Computer Science and Engineering (CSE), BU.

In his keynote address, Anis focused on the end products and achieving customer satisfaction, which is of prime importance. In this respect, he presented the concept of Customer Value Creation (CVC). The CVC consists of assisting customers in evaluating/enabling IT projects to meet business needs.

Changing customer business environment and applying technology were some factors that could act as 'enablers' in achieving CVC. Putting emphasis on Business Process Reengineering (BPR), he said, "The three P's of software project management, People, Process and Problems, have substantial influence on the end-result and thus have to be carefully coordinated to achieve maximum return". He provided some BPR

models that have been successfully applied for increasing revenue and reducing costs.

Asked what steps Bangladeshi software companies could take to get a stronghold in this sector, he said Bangladesh does not have to look afar, and can instead emulate its neighbour's efforts to achieve higher returns.

Also exploring the market needs and researching on future trends could provide them with the insight of where the laurels are hidden. "In the US", he said, " 80 per cent of the costs are associated with labour, and the rest 20 per cent, with infrastructure. In Bangladesh this relationship is the exact opposite. So there is ample opportunity for Bangladesh to come up with effective low-cost solutions."

The paper was basically one to update would-be entrepreneurs and IT professionals interested in

utilising IT knowledge and skills for business gains. It highlighted the various hazards and pitfalls frequently experienced by chief technologists, and cleared commonly held misconceptions about IT projects.

The BU VC in his concluding remarks congratulated Anis on his accomplishments, adding that it was an honour for the country as well. On the question of prospects of IT in Bangladesh, he said, "Though Bangladesh had shown a lot of promise, not much has been achieved, as had been envisioned. It is time that the new generation came forward and played active roles in developing this sector."

Anis has an illustrious career having served in Hewlett Packard, Sun Microsystems, Ford Motor Co. and SAP. He credits his success to his continuous passion for customers, technology and solutions.

Tech News

ICT journalists get laurel

ZAHIDUL HAQUE

BANGLADESH Computer Samity (BCS), a platform of computer vendors, has awarded ICT journalists of different print and electronic media for best media coverage on the seven-day 12th BCS Computer Show 2003, held on July 6.

The samity has also awarded Nazim Uddin Mostan, a senior reporter of The Daily Ittefaq, for his special contribution to ICT journalism since 1985.

The awards were handed over at a ceremony at a local hotel.

Advisor to the commerce ministry Barkat Ullah Bulu attended the ceremony as chief guest while National Press Club President Reaz Uddin Ahmed was present as special guest.

BCS President Sabur Khan, Bangladesh Association of Software and Information Services (BASIS) President Habibullah N Karim, Convenor of the BCS show Ali Ashfaq, BCS Secretary General Aziz Rahman were also present.

Bulu said the decision not to get connected with the submarine cable during the past BNP government's tenure had left Bangladesh lag behind other

regional neighbours. "Taking the advantage India is now making huge profits from this sector," he said.

Pallab Mohaimen of The Daily Prothom Alo and Rafiqul Islam Sabuj shared the best reporter prize while SM Salahuddin of The Daily Independent received the best feature award.

Best visual presentation prize went to Dainik Dinkal, while best supplement feature award went to The Daily Jugantar and The Daily Ittefaq.

The Daily Prothom Alo received Best 'IT corner' award, while the Best Electronic Media prize went to Bangladesh Television.

Six computer magazines have also been awarded for their outstanding media coverage. They are Dhakar Chithi, Computer Bichitra, Computer Jagat, Computer Tomorrow, E-Biz and Technology Today.

Dhaka Racing, the first Bangladeshi 3-D game, has been awarded the best product at the show. Texas Group bagged the prize for best stall in the show that carried the slogan 'Where technology meets people'. It was held at the Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar.

Award winners with the panel of guests at the award ceremony

Tech Snaps

Computerisation at the BRTA

Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) has recently started computerisation works for automation and modernisation of their activities, says a press release. The project has been executed and supervised by Dhaka Transport Coordination Board (DTCB) under Ministry of Communication and funded by World Bank. For this work DTCB has signed a contract agreement with DCL-CMG Consortium, a joint venture of the local leading ICT Company Daffodil Computers Ltd and another ICT Company CMG of Malaysia.

The contractor DCL-CMG Consortium will perform software development, networking installation of computer and peripherals, provide training to BRTA officials and maintenance of the system during the four years of project period. By starting the operation of this computer system, BRTA's Technical, Operational and administrative activities will come under computer database for their about 41 different offices in the country including the head office. Different tasks of BRTA like testing of vehicles, issues of registration certificate, issue of route permit, transfer of vehicle, issue of drivers license etc will be ease and faster after implementing the computerized system. The computer system will expected to be in full operation by July 2004.

Sabur Khan honoured

The Financial Mirror honoured Md. Sabur Khan, Chairman of Daffodil Group Ltd., and President of Bangladesh Computer Samity recently for his outstanding contribution in expanding the IT activities in the country, says a press release. In this connection "The Financial Mirror Business Award 2002" was handed over to him at an award giving ceremony at Hotel Sonargaon on July 5. Barrister Moudud Ahmed, Honorable Minister for Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs was present as chief guest while Barkat Ullah Bulu, advisor, Ministry of Commerce and Sayed Marghub Murshed, Chairman, BTRC were also present as Special Guest.
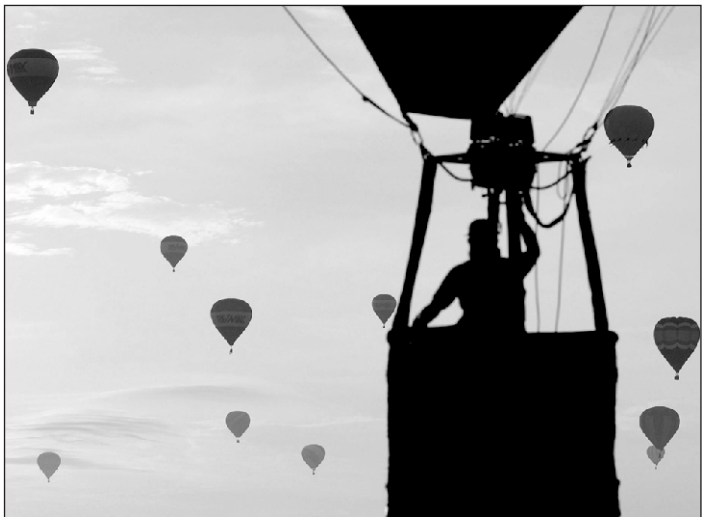

100 years in the air

PHOTO: AFP

Hot air balloons make a mass ascension during the Inventing Flight celebration at the United States Air Force Museum on July 06 in Dayton, Ohio. The city of Dayton is celebrating the 100th anniversary of powered flight, which was invented in Dayton by the Wright Brothers.

Dr. Tech

Dear Dr. Tech,
Sometimes I need to find out either a name or an IP address for a particular site. Is there any way I can do that? Please let me know.
Rubab

Dear Rubab
Yes, you can do that. This can actually come in handy. For example, if you have a firewall on your computer and are getting info that 207.44.192.42 is trying to get into your computer, you can use this tip to turn those numbers into an actual address.
Or, if you have the name of the site (like www.thedailystar.net) and need an IP address for some reason (pay attention if you own your own web

domain), you can uncover that information too.
Hit the Start Button, Run. Type "Command" in the Run line and hit Enter. You should be looking at a DOS screen. Type the following:
nslookup 207.44.192.42
Then hit Enter. It should tell you that 207.44.192.42 is the IP for thedailystar.net (note that it may spit out your ISP's info first).
nslookup www.thedailystar.net
Then hit Enter
It should give you the 207.44.192.42 number (again, it may spit out your current ISP's info first). This is really handy for those who own web sites and have forgotten what their IP address is.

dailystartech@yahoo.com

Tech Toon

GLASBERGEN

"I think he's ready to start using the computer. He just said 'Google'!"

Star Tech Quiz 47

Check the box beside the correct answer

1. Which service operates against DNS name?
☐ TCP/IP ☐ NTX
☐ FTP ☐ HTTP

2. What is the acronym for HTTP?
☐ Hypertext Transfer Protocol ☐ Hyper Trans Track Process
☐ Hypertext terminal protocol ☐ Hyper Transmission Protocol

Name: ___ Occupation: ___
Address: ___
Contact Number: ___ E-mail: ___

Last week's answers
1. Files & Folders 2. Domain Name System
Winner: Mahtab Morshed
12/1, New Polton (3rd Floor), Ajimpur, Dhaka.
Please fill this up and send your answers to Star Tech Quiz, The Daily Star, 19 Karwan Bazaar, Dhaka 1215 by July 15, 2003.

Tech Fair

Showcasing creativity with care

'Multimedia and Web Fair 2003' at Arena's Gulshan centre

SAAD BIN FAZLE HAMMADI

CREATIVITY is the hidden talent within every human being and Arena Multimedia explored in in their students before showcasing their works at a four-day multimedia and web fair at its Gulshan centre.

The fair was inaugurated by Dr. Abdul Moyeen Khan, minister for science and information & communication technology, on July 2.

Students of Arena Multimedia showcased their creativity in the fair. The fair was divided into four zones -- web/flash animation and games zone, animation and commercial ads zone, CD presentation and video editing, and digital artwork. The students made commercial ads of different products using macromedia flash, 3D Max and Maya.

Most of the commercials presented on local TV channels are usually the dubbed versions of foreign advertisements although better commercials can be made locally at low costs. Not only in the commercial ads but also in CD presentations, web presentations, games and

video editing, the students came up with a commendable performance.

The best CD presentation was a documentary on Rabindranath Tagore. It contained several links that represented the life of Rabindranath Tagore, his profile, some of his songs, photos and many more details about him.

While inspecting the fair, Dr. Abdul Moyeen Khan said, "In India, a CD presentation was made on Satyajit Roy and was sold at Rs 900 each and it had a big demand in the market. The CD presentation of Rabindranath Tagore will also be in great demand if it is marketed."

The web presentation was another impressive section at the fair. One of the presentations worthy a second look was of the BRT Group, who has already developed web sites for more than 15 companies such as ATN Bangla, Anjans, Ministry for Foreign Affairs and Arena Multimedia. Arena students have developed web sites for many companies and this shows their efficiency in the arena of multimedia.

"I am immensely impressed to see your work. What you have made in three years seemed to me an experience of 15 years. You must market your products, otherwise your effort will be of no use and after sometime, they will become outdated.

"We can also take these products to our Los Angeles market. I'm sure Arena will be able to establish their mark even in the international market," said Dr. Khan noted.

Nazneen Kamal, centre

director of Arena Multimedia, Gulshan centre, told The Star Tech, "I am grateful to my co-workers and students for who we could achieve this. Our students have already developed web sites for foreign and local companies. We can provide the same service as any other country at much lower price. They have only three years of experience but I am sure our students will be able to sell their potentials in the market."

Dr. Abdul Moyeen Khan appreciating the documentary on Tagore

Photo Tech

PHOTO: AFP
Wes Day puts some final touches on "Solar Miner II", the University of Missouri's entry in the solar power auto race while his teammate Lee Hall gets some sleep on the campus of Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois on July 07. The race, along old Route 66 from Chicago, Illinois to Claremont, California begins July 13.

Hackers Tech

Hacker competition fails to bite

A widely publicised hacking contest which encouraged vandals to deface websites has ended without causing serious trouble.
Early reports suggested that the event could disrupt the net for many users but Sunday passed with little incident.
Security firms and experts said that the event fizzled out and no high-profile sites suffered damage.
One of the few casualties of the event was the independent website recording the sites that the hackers did manage to deface.
Roberto Preatoni, founder of the Estonia-based Zone-H site that tracks attacks, said the final tally of defacements would not be known for 36 hours until the logs of claimed successes had been scrutinised.
The organisers of the Defacers Challenge wanted to see more than 6,000 sites defaced or disrupted during the six hour duration of Sunday's competition.
Points were awarded for the different types of sites hacked.
But security firms monitoring the event said they did not think that more than a few thousand sites had been defaced.
Some sites of small firms were known to be hit by hackers on the day but none of the big hosting companies that look after many thousands of sites reported successful defacements.
Publicity about the competition was thought to have helped firms prepare and put in place security measures to combat vandals.

-BBC Online