

Tech Week

Brainstorming to explore IT windows

National IT Week 2003

SYED TASHFIN CHOWDHURY

THE just-concluded 'National Information Technology (IT) Week 2003' was an annual event during which communities, businesses, government, teachers and students worked in partnership to communicate to Bangladeshis the benefits and

M. Shahjahan Khadem, convenor of the IEB Task Force for Development of Information Technology Professionals.

On the inaugural day, a discussion was held on "World Summit on Information Society (WSIS): Preparation of Bangladesh Strategy" at the conference room of the IEB. Chaired by Dr. AM

importance of online banking for development of e-commerce in Bangladesh. Satter presented a valid case in favour of online banking. He pointed out the disadvantages, advantages, constraints and the profits incurred by the country as a whole through online banking leading towards better e-commerce of the country

database of ponds which can be accessed on the web from anywhere in Bangladesh for exact locations.

The fourth day dwelt on the importance to set up computer labs from primary to post-graduate level to develop human resources skilled in internet technology and English'.

increase the city's telecommunications links, the private and public sectors need to work together. Reportedly, Bangladesh has a total of 10 lakh telephone connections which is not even 1 per cent of the demand.

The sixth day of the seminar saw a discussion on the prospects of e-governance in the country at

Dr. Shamsher Ali, vice-chancellor of South East University.

The discussion was about the "Vision of Bangladesh to earn US\$ 2 billion by 2006 by exporting computer software and development of human resources." The speakers noted that \$2 billion is too much of a mark for Bangladesh to reach as far as information



Abdus Sattar Bhuiyan, state minister for fisheries and livestock, speaks at discussion on the third day of the National IT Week 2003



Guests discuss on the prospects of E-Governance in Bangladesh on the sixth day of the IT week.



M Shamsul Islam(C), minister for land speaks at a discussion on the closing day of the National IT Week 2003

services that ICT has to offer.

The ideas and discussion during the August 31 September 6 meet are clear examples of the collaboration between the government of Bangladesh, the private sector, and the provinces and territories working together to bring the benefits of ICT to Bangladeshi communities. Some major decisions involving the IT sector of the country were made at the IT week.

The event was co-organised by the Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh (IEB) Task Force for Development of IT Professionals and Bangladesh Computer Council (BCC). The weeklong programme was co-ordinated by

Chowdhury, executive director, BCC, the session was addressed by Dr. Jamilur Reza Chowdhury, vice-chancellor, BRAC University, as chief guest. Syed Marghub Murshed, chairman, Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) and Karar Mahmudul Hasan, secretary, Ministry of Science and ICT were also present as special guests. Reza Selim, member secretary, Bangladesh Working Group on WSIS, presented the keynote paper.

The second day of the seminar was attended by Kazi Mahmood Satter, managing director and chief executive officer of Eastern Bank Limited. The topic was the

in the long run.

September 2 was the third day of the seminar and the theme was the importance of a database of available ponds of Bangladesh to develop the fisheries with trained educated youths.

"We have not been able to reach the goals due to lack of coordination between the ministries in the past and the trained personnel in the fishing sector," said Abdus Sattar Bhuiyan, state minister for fisheries and livestock.

He added that Bangladesh could earn at least Tk 2,000 crore a year by developing these ponds and push GDP up. The speakers stressed the need to make a

"Lack of managerial skills and trained faculties with sound knowledge of English are hampering the spread of computer literacy programs in these institutions," said Prof. M Moniruzzaman Mian, chairman of the National Educational Commission and former vice-chancellor of Dhaka University.

The fifth day was about the importance to set up fixed telephone exchanges in Dhaka city through private and public sectors in line with telecoms policy. The session was held at the Bangladesh Telephone and Telecommunication Board office.

Telecoms Secretary Faruq Ahmed Siddiqi said in order to

Bangladesh Computer Council, at Dhanmondi. SAMS Taifur, joint chief and project director, support, of the ICT taskforce, Planning Commission, and Dr. A.M Chowdhury, executive director, Bangladesh Computer Council, spoke. "Through e-governance, the government would profit through better efficiency and better flow of information," said Dr. M. Shamsher Ali, vice-chancellor, South East University.

September 6 was the last day of the program and had Dr. Abdul Awwal, IT activist and associate professor of North South University as the speaker. Land Minister M Shamsul Islam also attended the program, and so did

technology is concerned. But at least through initiation and completion of some projects already in hand, and some others being planning, such a stage could possibly be set in the near future.

Some other recommendations made in the seminar include drawing up a national curriculum for computer science studies and IT training for the 15 lakh government employees.

"Through dedication and the right knowledge and skills we should be able to give our people jobs and possibly unemployment could be reduced," mentioned Dr. Abdul Awwal.

Dr. Tech

Dear Dr. Tech,
Could you please tell me how I can place my favorite websites on my desktop just like one of my desktop icons? I saw one of my friends doing it.
Sameera

Dear Sameera,
Here's how you can place your favorite web page on your desktop.

Right-click on your desktop, select **Active Desktop**, and click on **Customize My Desktop**. You will see your display properties box, select the **Web** tab. Make sure the 'Show web content on my active desktop' box is checked.

(XP Users: Right-click on your desktop, select **Properties**. On the **Desktop** tab, click the **Customize Desktop** button, then click on the **Web** tab.)

Click on **New**, you'll see the 'New active desktop item' box. This is where you will type in the address for your favorite website. If you know the address for the site

you want, simply type it in. If not, you can go to it and copy and paste it into this box.

Then click **OK**. It will now start to connect to your site. The next box you will see is to verify this process. You can either click **OK** or if your site needs a password to access, click on **Customise** and type the password. It will then synchronise and your site is added to your display properties.

Now back at the Display Properties window, make sure the site you just entered is selected and click **Apply** then **OK**.

Once your site is added to your desktop then you can resize it with the sizing handles. You can also move it to different parts of your desktop by clicking and dragging at the top of the screen. You can even make it as big or as small as you like, but now you can get to your favorite site a lot quicker than by any browser.

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Tech Toon



Star Tech Quiz

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Check the box beside the correct answer

1. The letters, "DOS" stand for

- ☐ Data Out System ☐ Disk Operating System
☐ Disk Out System ☐ Data Operating System

2. Designate where the next action occurs

- ☐ decode ☐ select
☐ highlight ☐ execute

Name: Occupation:

Address:

Contact Number: E-mail:

Last week's answers

1. microprocessor 2. clip art

Winners: Ashfaqur Rahman

7D Karnaphuli Garden City, Dhaka

Please fill this up and send your answers to Star Tech Quiz, The Daily Star, 19 Karwan Bazaar, Dhaka 1215 by September 16, 2003.

Tech News

Happy birthday, Linux



BBC ONLINE

BY the time you were 10 what had you accomplished?

To give you something to compare yourself against consider Pu Yi who by that tender age had been the emperor of China for seven years.

And by the time he reached the end of his first decade Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart had been composing original works for four years and had been taken to many European capitals showing off his precocious musical talent.

But Linux could have them all beat, because many believe that the software, which turns 10 this weekend, could be well on the way to starting a revolution.

Finnish start

Linux was written by Finnish programmer Linus Torvalds while studying at the University of Helsinki, and is a version of the Unix operating system created in 1969 by Ken Thompson and Dennis Ritchie.

Unix was, and is, popular because it's a powerful piece of software and was intended to be

moved relatively easily from one make of computer to another. Many large computer companies such as IBM and Digital Equipment, have translated Unix to run on their machines.

"But," said Alan Cox, one of the guardians of the core, or kernel, of Linux, "most of the old Unix was tied to vendors hardware, and tended to be very expensive."

So Torvalds created Linux to be a cheap, cheerful and compact version of Unix that really could run on lots of different pieces of hardware with very few changes.

Now it works on everything from handhelds such as the Compaq i-paq right up to IBM mainframes and supercomputers. Programs written to run on one machine can easily be moved

Windows which comes in many incompatible versions that often struggle to swap documents in different formats let alone actual programs.

Humble start

Linux has developed from those early beginnings into a worldwide industry and movement. Now it is available in many different "distributions" that come with a bewildering array of utilities and programs that have turned it from an engineers tool into something much more useable.

Its emphasis on openness, collaborative development, stability and security have helped it grow in stature and stand in stark contrast to Microsoft's way of doing business.

Linux is starting to find a place in many businesses who are tired of endless price hikes, upgrades, bug fixes and managing the many problems that Microsoft's software can bring.

The organisations turning to Linux also like the fact that there is a vast pool of software engineers out there tinkering with the software and ready to help solve any problems they encounter. It is on this after sales care that the Linux companies tend to compete.



Tux- the Linux mascot

to another.

"It's a very powerful, unifying force," said Cox.

This portability is a huge benefit to organisations more used to the bewildering world of Microsoft

Wheels on Water



The Gibbs Aquada races across the water in Docklands, London, as Gibbs Technologies Ltd announced the achievement of one of the most exciting engineering projects in British history, the successful development of High Speed Amphibian (HSA) technology on September 3. After seven years of research and development of HSA technology, Gibbs demonstrated the vehicle that can reach 30 mph on water and speeds over 100 mph on land.

Tech News

Google turns five



The world's most popular site for searching the web, Google, is five years old. It is now an internet giant, used by millions of people every day in more than 80 languages.

The search engine site moved to its first office, actually a garage, in Menlo Park, California on 7 September 1998.

This move was helped by the \$1m in funding it received from investors, family and friends shortly before.

Back then, Google was just four employees, its search system was still being refined and it was handling little more than 10,000 queries per day.

Now it handles more than 200 million and Google has become a phenomenon that has transcended its online origins.

It has expanded beyond just searches to encompass comparison shopping, news, web logs and even a service that blocks pop-up ads.

Now Google is a noun, adjective and verb. For instance "to Google" is to use the search engine to check someone out before you meet them.

Google grew out of computer research by its founders Stanford University PhD students Sergey Brin and Larry Page.

The pair initially called their search system BackRub that was so named because it checked the links back to a page to see how popular it was.

The pair reasoned that a popular or useful page was likely to have more links to it.

-BBC Online

Tech Snaps



Dishari's 7th batch passes out

The 7th batch of Dishari-Chechua, the basic IT Education Centre of BATB (British American Tobacco Bangladesh) completed their two months course on August 30, says a press release. 12 students including 4 female students completed the course. 'Dishari' -- an initiative taken by BATB to contribute to this progressive industry and development of the youth.

'Dishari' basic IT education centre was born in July 2002 at Chechua, Kushtia to spread IT education among the rural youth. Dishari works with a philosophy of providing a platform for the students which can help them grow in future. Till date 78 students passed out from this centre including 14 female students. In May 2003, the second centre of Dishari kicked off in Moulvibazar, Sylhet.

Photo Tech



PHOTO: AFP

Japan's electronics giant Sony unveils the new robot dog "AIBO ERS-7" which reacts to a robot bone shaped toy AIBOne at the company's headquarters in Tokyo on September 4. The new AIBO, weighing 1.6kg, is equipped with 20 joints to make smooth body movements and 576MHz 64bit RISC processor on its CPU. Sony will put it on the market in November with a price of 185,000 yen (1,580 USD).

Best 0 Websites

Category: Webmasters Resources II

Web Developer's Virtual Library
Original encyclopedia of web technology.
URL: <http://www.wdvl.com/>

GeekTools
Cool tools for Geeks & those aspiring to Geekdom.
URL: <http://www.geektools.com/>

W3Schools
Top tutorial resources for webmasters & programmers.
URL: <http://www.w3schools.com/>

WebMonkey
Web developers resources.
URL: <http://hotwired.lycos.com/webmonkey/>

WebDeveloper
Developer news & analysis.
URL: <http://www.webdeveloper.com/>

Web Style Guide
Comprehensive website development guide.
URL: <http://www.info.med.yale.edu/caim/manual/>

Web Design Resources
Web design resource links.
URL: http://goldray.com/webdesign/design_resources.htm

Web Techniques
Design & development news, insight & community.
URL: <http://www.webtechniques.com/>

TUCOWS
Huge collection of Winsock software for download.
http://www.tucows.com/

DaveCentral
Review a massive selection of Windows & Linux software.
http://www.davecentral.com/