

BCS Computer City : Ushering a New Era of Possibilities

by Aftab Ul Islam, FCA

President, Bangladesh Computer Samity (BCS)

INSPIRED by the huge success of the Computer Show at the IDB Bhaban last year, BCS actively pursued the issue of setting up a permanent venue for the total Information Technology related business.

The 'BCS Computer City' which will start functioning very soon at the IDB Bhaban at the city's Sher-e-Bangla Nagar area, will usher in a new era of possibilities as it is expected to deal with the entire gamut of computer and information technology (IT) related issues.

In fact, it is for the very first time in this country that the private sector operators under the Bangladesh Computer Samity (BCS) have come forward in an integrated manner to boost the development of the sector by offering one-stop marketing, sales, software development, IT training, Internet service, E-commerce and high-speed data transmission facilities under a single roof.

Needless to mention, the

initiative will benefit everyone involved in the software and the IT field and come to the immense benefit of customers and end-users of the technology as well. It will also help increase the IT awareness and user-base in the country which is so vital for the development of skilled manpower required for progress of the infant software industry. Besides, it will also bring dynamism in the marketing and service delivery mechanisms of computer and IT products by introducing the element of business competition and excellence in service delivery that are so vital in a free-market economy.

It was really after the unexpected success of the week-long BCS International Computer Show '98 held in December last year at the IDB Bhaban where some 350,000 people from all

walks of life attended, that the idea of moving into a permanent place with the member firms came to the mind of BCS leaders. As the IDB Bhaban became a particularly favourite venue, the BCS wanted the Computer City to be housed there. In turn, the IDB authority also showed no less interest in the matter. Thus, the obvious marriage of mutual interests led to the birth of BCS Computer City. IDB being the owner of the premises has signed the contract with individual member firms as lessor. BCS will co-ordinate and co-operate with IDB Wafk committee in functioning and smooth operation of 'BCS Computer City'.

Spread over a floor space of about 100,000 sq. ft. having full air-conditioning and lift facilities, the BCS Computer City will offer, among other things, four conference centres with public address (PA) systems, permanent exhibition facilities for new product launching, separate site for IT education and Internet Service Providers (ISPs) etc.

Besides, an exclusive site for software development and high-speed data transmission facilities aimed at promoting software exports from Bangladesh will feature in the

BCS Computer City. This will be able to provide temporary solutions as far as problems in electronic transfer of data is concerned until the Software Technology Park (STP) comes into being under the public sector.

Moreover, 130 computer showrooms for computer hardware and accessories have also been designated for marketing and sales of IT hardware and solutions.

However, the BCS Computer City is not to be confused with the traditional concept of a market. Because it will not only act as an exclusive marketing and sales outlet, but by holding regular seminars, symposiums and exhibitions it will in fact involve the entire range of computer education and services for the masses.

To mark the opening of the BCS Computer City, the Bangladesh Computer Samity has already decided to celebrate the inauguration of the BCS Computer City in style by initiating the two-week BCS Computer Show '99. The organizers of the event are anticipating turn-out of at least 500,000 visitors in the IT extravaganza from all over the country. Meanwhile, most of the national dailies and weeklies are already highlighting the issue by bringing out special features and supplement to mark the gala event.

New, Industry-relevant, Aptech Certified Computer Professional Program- (ACCP)

semester and so much more.

ACCP Year 2 Vs. Other Industry Operators Semester 3 & 4

ACCP Semester 1 Vs Other Industry Operators Semester 1

1. Programming logic in the first semester with C.

Any student who wants to pursue his career in computers needs fundamentals of programming as the base on which everything else is built on.

By giving this in the first semester, we ensure that a strong base is built and no time is wasted teaching things that he can learn on his own anyway when he starts working.

The semester focuses on what is difficult for the student to learn on his own and gives attention to that instead of teaching what he can learn easily.

C syntax is being used by most of the languages today on the Web. This knowledge will help students pickup other languages much faster.

Other Industry Operators does not have programming in Semester 1.

We teach Office '97 as a preparatory module. Other Industry Operators teaches Office '95.

2. We have modules on personality development, which help students get ready for jobs. Inputs are given on how to prepare for interviews,

how to prepare resume and on other such practical aspects.

3. A GUI Design course on VB6 is part of this semester. The student gets comfortable working with VB6. Other Industry Operators do not have VB6 in the first semester.

Our first semester is designed in such a way that a even if student is not sure of pursuing his career in computing, this semester will give him a feel of all the possibilities and may even motivate and interest him further. It gives him Desk Top Management. It tells him programming, a complete DBMS system, C/s front end, Working on Internet, HTML etc...

Our first semester is value for money. The first Semester of the courses offered by Other Industry Operators is almost like our Preparatory Module + some and should cost typically Tk 3000.00!

ACCP Semester 2 Vs Other Industry Operators Semester 2

1. Heavy focus on object oriented Analysis, Design and programming. Other Industry Operators does not offer OOAD. Students will learn the latest modeling language UML (Unified Modeling Language). This is the industry standard for developing applications.

2. The versions taught for VB is 6.0, which is latest. Other Institutes do not teach VB in the first year. VB is the prototyping tool used very heavily in medium sized IT organisations for s/w development as the Client Server Front End. The syllabus is aligned to the latest very popular MCSD curriculum. This ensures that the student learns what is current.

3. The entire software industry is moving towards Internet based applications and component technology. The VB6 course concentrates on developing applications for the web, like ActiveX controls, DHTML, VB scripting etc. The courses currently being offered by other industry operators have nothing in this area.

4. Students get introduced to Java scripts, DHTML which are requirements for web page designing. Students actually spend 10 hours writing DHTML codes. Others do not cover this.

5. Instead of Unix, we are covering Linux. Linux is the fastest growing OS today. It is very much Unix like. Therefore, learning Linux also means learning to work under Unix environment.

6. The project performed in 2nd semester is client server. Even other institutes too have similar project. However, our students do the project with what is relevant, popular in the industry - Visual Basic 6.0.

7. Based on our survey Oracle (RDBMS from Aptech), is used by 60 per cent of the IT industry. Learning other RDBMS tools hardly help the student when he looks for a job.

8. Our II semester is far superior in content, coverage and practice as none of what others teach (except C++) is going to be useful for a student during job hunting.

9. Our students have concrete skill of VB and also know Object oriented event-based approach to software development. This makes them highly place-able.

10. Therefore, we teach everything relevant that other institutes teach in 2nd

1. We teach VC++ Version 6.0. Others teach older version.

2. 90 per cent of the application developers using VC++ today use MFC and not SDK. The syllabus is aligned to the MCSD syllabus requirement, which means the students learn what is relevant in the software industry. Students in this module learn COM implementation using VC++.

3. The module on distributed computing (again MCSD aligned), is very important for web based application development. The module teaches the advanced concepts like MTS, DCOM etc, which are the skills required for s/w development. In fact, in component technology, 70 per cent of the development is using COM/DCOM. This is integrated in our course. Other institutes have no such course at all, making their's an outdated course.

4. The module 'Analyzing Requirements and defining solution architecture' tells students how to analyse a business problem and suggest the complete business solution with IT. This is again a MCSD paper and when combined with the existing OOAD knowledge, this is what is needed for today's s/w professional for designing applications. Others do not offer such a course.

5. We teach Oracle 8i and D2K release 2.0 in year 2. This combination makes 60 per cent of RDBMS and C/S s/w environment today. Others do not teach either of these subjects. Students are missing out on a great and most sought after skill by

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Hewlett-Packard's New President and CEO

Hewlett-Packard Company (NYSE: HWP) announced in July that **Carleton (Carly) S Fiorina** has been named president and chief executive officer, succeeding Lewis E Platt, who previously

announced his intention to retire. Fiorina also will join the HP board of directors.

Fiorina was president of Lucent Technologies' Global Service Provider Business, Lucent's largest and fastest-growing division,

with more than \$20 billion in annual revenue. Platt, 58, will remain chairman until year-end, by which time business computing and imaging businesses are expected to be independent of its measurement businesses. Upon Platt's retirement, Dec 31, 1999, Fiorina (Dick) A Hackborn, 60, a former HP executive and a current member of the board of directors, has agreed to become non-executive chairman.

Recently named by Fortune as the most powerful woman in American business, Fiorina, 44, brings to HP nearly 20 years of broad technology and telecommunications experience at Lucent and AT&T, and a demonstrated track record of successfully growing large businesses. During the past two years as president of Lucent's Global Service Provider Business, the division dramatically increased its growth rate, rapidly expanded its international revenues and gained market share in every product line. In addition, she spearheaded the planning and execution of Lucent's 1996 initial public offering and subsequent spin-off from AT&T, one of the largest and most successful IPOs ever. Prior to Lucent, Fiorina held a number of senior positions at AT&T. She began her career with the company as an account executive.

Fiorina received her bachelor's degree in medieval history and philosophy from Stanford University. She earned a master's degree in business administration from the University of Maryland at College Park, Md., and a master of science degree from MIT's Sloan School. Fiorina is a member of the board of directors of the Kellogg Company and Merck & Co, Inc. She recently was elected to the US China Board of Trade.

About HP

Hewlett-Packard Company — a leading global provider of computing and imaging solutions and services for business and home — is focused on capitalising on the opportunities of the Internet and the proliferation of electronic services.

HP had computer-related revenue of US\$39.5 billion in its 1998 fiscal year. HP plans to launch a new company consisting of its industry-leading test-and-measurement, semiconductor products, chemical analysis and medical businesses. These businesses represented US\$7.6 billion of HP's total revenue in fiscal 1998. With leading positions in multiple market segments, this technology-based company will focus on high-growth opportunities such as communications and life sciences.

HP has 123,000 employees and had total revenue of US\$47.1 billion in its 1998 fiscal year. Information about HP, its products and the company's Year 2000 programme can be found on the World Wide Web at <http://www.hp.com>.

Earnings Increase, Revenue Grows

HP Net Earnings are 85 Cents per Share Before Separation Costs; Separation Costs Reduce Reported Earnings per Share to 81 Cents

HEWLETT-PACKARD Company reported a 37 per cent increase in net earnings and 11 per cent revenue growth for the 1999 fiscal year's third quarter, which ended July 31. Net earnings for the quarter were \$853 million, compared with \$621 million in last year's third quarter. Before separation costs for this quarter, earnings per share (EPS) were 85 cents on approximately 1.06 billion shares of common stock and common-stock equivalents outstanding. Approximately \$60 million in costs associated with HP's separation into two companies reduced EPS by 4 cents to 81 cents per share. This compares with last year's third quarter, when diluted EPS was 58 cents on approximately 1.08 billion shares.

stayed focused on profitable growth, and we're beginning to see the results of our efforts to convert orders into stronger revenue growth," said Lewis E. Platt, HP chairman. "Profit results were even better. A number of businesses improved their profitability, with overall profitability exceeding our expectations."

Business Summary: Net revenue for the quarter was \$12.2 billion, compared with \$11.0 billion in the year-ago quarter. Net revenue in the United States was \$5.6 billion, an increase of 8 per cent compared with year ago, while revenue from outside the United States rose 14 per cent to \$6.6 billion. In Europe, revenue was \$4.0 billion, up 13 per cent. In Asia Pacific, revenue increased 24 per cent and was \$1.7 billion.

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