Study home and get a UK degree

IT Qualifications @ UK fair at the British Council

NAFID IMRAN AHMED

The just concluded *IT Qualifications @ UK Fair* was indeed a treat, especially for those intent on a career in information and communications technology (ICT). The three-day exhibition at the British Council auditorium, which ran from July 21 through July 23, brought together seven UK-based institutions operating in the country.

Education Minister Dr M Osman Farruk inaugurated the fair, which was organised by the British Council, as chief guest in the presence of BRAC Vice-chancellor Professor Jamilur Reza Chowdhury and Bangladesh Computer Society President Professor R I Sharif.

The participants - Bhuiyan Institute of Technology, Neural Institute of Management and Information Technology, Daffodil Institute of IT, Soft-Ed Infotech Academy, IBCS-Primax, Institute of Business and Information Technology (IBIT) and Unique Computing - offer ICT courses based on the National Computing Centre (NCC) Education.

The NCC is a UK-based independent IT testing and certification body. Every year students at over 175 education centres in more than 28 countries chose NCC Education as a 'Route to Global Success'. The NCC offers a wide range of IT education and training programmes. These courses lead to NCC Education qualifications, which are globally recognised.

The NCC offers many courses. Qualifications such as NCC's International Diploma in Computer Studies (IDCS) provides students the opportunity to gain a job or a progress in their studies at higher levels at universities. The NCC's academic portfolio includes a four-year framework, from certificate to

Enthusiastic viewers at the IT Qualifications @ UK fair

the degree level and leading to MSc.

IDCS - International Diploma in Computer Studies

IADCS - International Advanced Diploma in Computer Studies

BCOL - BSc in Computing On-line

PDSB - Postgraduate Diploma in Strategic Business Information Technology

Most institutions in the country offer IDCS and IADCS in the first two years and then Bachelors in Computing and Information System (BCIS) under the London Guildhall University in the last final year.

The participants at the *IT Qualifications @ UK fair* presented out-lines of the courses they offer. Some institutes also offer different courses apart from the NCC. Bhuiyan Computers introduced BSc and Diploma in Computing and Information Systems under the University of London. Institute of Business and Information Technology (IBIT) and Soft-Ed Infotech Academy offered BSc and MSc courses under Keele University, London. GCE (EDEXCEL) O- and A-Level computing courses are also available in some of the institutes.

On the second day of the fair, a programming contest was held among students of different institutes. The competition was held in two groups having 7-8 students each. The duration was three hours each. A combined video presentation by the NCC Education Providers in Bangladesh

was another attraction of the day.

The fair came to an end with State Minister for Education ANM Ehsanul Haque distributing prizes among the winners of the competition.

At the dawn of the Internet age, organisations worldwide are seeking to recruit the most able and experienced IT teams, to help support their businesses in the new global economy. The NCC Education has been providing IT training and education for longer than almost any other organisation and through distance learning our students can benefit and strengthen the future of the country's IT industry.

Maya in Bengali

Systech Digital introduces interactive Bengali video tutorial on Maya

STAR TECH DESK

Thousands of scary looking monsters attack the humans in the movie 'Scorpion King'. Everyone was stunned to experience the power of the world famous 3D animation software 'Maya' after the movie was released. The urge for learning the software also grew.

Systech Digital, country's leading digital publications company has introduced an interactive video tutorial on Maya in Bengali. The tutorial was formally introduced by Sabur Khan, President, Bangladesh Computer Samity at the corporate office of IT-COM digital magazine.

The tutorial is titled 'Maya 4 Tutorial Essentials' and has ten main categories. These are: Interface, Modelling, Animation, Hyper Shade, Light, Camera, Bones Joint, Dynamics, Pain Effect and Rendering. Each category is divided into several subcategories.
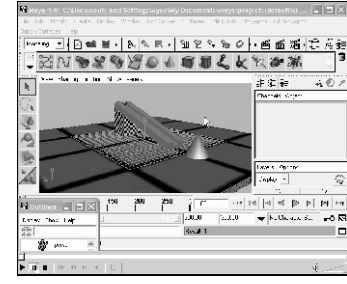
Maya 4 Tutorial Essential's begins with the 'Interface' menu. It introduces one to the Maya interface. Other sub-categories of this menu are: Panel and mouse movement, Creating objects and usage of toolbox, Some short keys, Outliner, Channel Box and Attribute Editor. This menu also has a part 'Your First Animation'.

The next step is modelling. This section introduces one to different types of modelling, how to do a glass

modelling by CV, bottle modelling by lofting, how to work with polygons and modelling a table. Modelling leads to the most interesting part of the tutorial, Animation. Two basic types of animation are described in the tutorial: Driven Key Animation and Path Animation.

Light and camera menus introduces one to the lighting effects and various camera angles and setting in Maya. The Dynamics section gives a brief description of Dynamics, Active and Passive Body and their examples. It also shows how to use constraints. The painting menu teaches one 2D canvas painting and 3D mode painting. Last but not the least menu is 'Rendering'. This section teaches rendering in Maya.

Video tutorials are always fun to learn. Systech's *Maya 4 Tutorial Essential's* covers almost all the basic parts of Maya. It is a very good reference for people who want to get familiar with Maya. The tutorial is priced at Tk. 150.

Bogra.info - The first cyber info city of Bangladesh

A city info portal of Bangladesh URL: http://www.bogra.info was introduced recently. This city portal has been dedicated to all citizen of Bogra. This is a bridge between the citizen of Bogra and the rest of the World. Bogra is known as a progressive district of Bangladesh with its historical tradition, advance socio-cultural and educational heritage and modern technological understanding. The website has an Information Service System covering the areas socio-economic, history, business, education, health, science, culture and society of Bogra. Bogra(Dot)Info is the first virtual info city of Bangladesh.

BASIS SoftExpo Bangladesh 2002

Organised by Bangladesh Association of Software and Information Services (BASIS), an international annual exposition of Bangladeshi software, products, programming services and business process outsourcing activities titled BASIS SoftExpo Bangladesh 2002 will start from August 17 at the Bangladesh China Friendship Conference Center [BCFCC]. To reserve a booth and / or register as a participant at the BASIS SoftExpo one will need to contact the Habibullah N Karim, President, BASIS. BASIS SoftExpo Bangladesh will continue till August 21.

Aptech students forms Programmers' Den

Programmers' Den, a software company was formed by a group young IT professionals who have just competed 3rd year course of Aptech. Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury, Minister for Commerce, inaugurated the company on July 15. The students had an extensive training followed by live projects, which made them confident to form a software company. The inauguration ceremony was presided over by Rizwan Bin Farouq, Managing Director of Axiom Technologies Ltd the master business partner of Aptech. Tarun Mitra, Head of Asia Pacific, Aptech Worldwide Ltd, Sabur Khan, President, Bangladesh Computer Samity (BCS) and Habibullah N Karim, President, Bangladesh Association of Software and Information Services (BASIS) were also present at the occasion as special guests.

Electricity bills through ATM

Other than using the specified bank counters, electricity subscribers will now be able to pay their monthly bills through ATM and credit cards. The Ministry of Power and Mineral Resources has already issued an instruction asking the concerned authorities to accept subscribers' ATM and credit cards against their electricity bills. State Minister for Power Iqbal Hasan Mahmud said the government has simplified the system of paying electricity bills to mitigate the sufferings of the consumers. The using of ATM and credit cards against electricity bills would significantly reduce the consumers' sufferings and also save their time, he said.

IBM's Shark data storage machine

International Business Machines Corporation launched a revamped version of its high-end data-storage machine called Shark. IBM, which is fighting for market share in the highly competitive data storage sector against the likes of EMC Corporation and Hitachi Data Systems, said the entry-level price on the new machine remains about 400,000 US dollars.

It begins shipping in volume on Aug. 16. The company said the new version of Shark is the first major upgrade to the data storage system, which is used for high-volume transaction processing and to store large databases of information, since it was introduced in 2001.

Berlin firm helps shape computer music revolution

REUTERS, *Berlin*

Michael Kurz clicks on a computer program and presses middle C on an adjacent keyboard. The computer races through millions of calculations and the sound of a B-3 organ pours out of nearby speakers

Musicians in jazz, gospel and rock have long raved about the Hammond B-3 organ's distinctive sound but grumbled about dragging the 286-pound instrument to gigs -- if they could afford to buy it.

Technological advances now make it possible for computers to create the sounds of traditional instruments such as the B-3 at a fraction of the original cost. The Berlin firm Native Instruments is playing a leading role in this software musical revolution.

"What we are doing only became possible when computers became fast enough," said Kurz, who designed the firm's B4 software that simulates the B-3 sound. "Only in the last five to seven years did it become possible to do real-time processing."

Such advances mean that an up-to-date computer produces no noticeable delay between pushing a note and hearing the computer's creation -- which takes about four million calculations for a second of real-time swirling B-3 sound.

for example, a brainy computer offers an uncanny reproduction of a grand piano or acoustic guitar.

Nerds And Enthusiasts

The United States has led the way in much computer and software innovation, but a number of outward-looking German firms have carved a niche in the global music software business.

At Native Instruments, the staff of 55 includes a Russian, several Americans, a Dutchman and Germans.

Kurz, who designed the B4 software that has won over enthusiasts around the world, looks out of 1970s rock-and-roll central casting. He wears a tie-dyed shirt and has long curly hair that would make Led Zeppelin's Robert Plant proud.

Others favor the sleeker look of the crowd who flock to Berlin's Love Parade celebration of techno music every summer.

"I wanted to come to Germany because I like techno music," said Jake Mandell, a 26-year-old American who sports a goatee beard. "I was flushed with the club culture."

Missing from Native Instrument's old warehouse offices near where the Berlin Wall once divided the German capital is music. Those creating new software are typically more concerned with meticulously writing new code than blasting out tunes.

couple of years I believe that we will be a hundred-million-dollar company."

He estimates the potential world market for software synthesis at $1 billion if software replaces hardware such as synthesizers and echo and fuzz effect boxes for guitars.

Last year, privately held Native Instruments had several million dollars in revenues and was profitable, Haver said.

The Synthesiser's Last Gasp?

The key question for Native Instruments and similar firms is whether software is poised to do to organs and synthesizers what word processing did to typewriters.

So far Hammond Suzuki is warily

in the 1980s offering a wider variety of realistic sounds on a single instrument, Hammond ended production of the original B-3.

Now software designers and Hammond's successor firm are taking Laurens Hammond's advice to look the past for inspiration. "The smart thing for an inventor to do is to put together the old tricks you have done before," he once said. The new B-3, to be reintroduced by Japan's Hammond Suzuki, will cost $23,170. The B4 software that produces very similar sounds with a computer aided by a sound card and a piano-style keyboard retails for 200 euros.

The B4 software that simulates the B-3 sound

"In the studio, it has already happened in many cases," said Craig Anderton, a musician and author of many books on electronic music. "This is particularly true for 'vintage' instruments that are hard to find and repair."

"For live use, hardware units will continue to be popular for quite some time."

A reason for software's slow advance on stage is the fickle nature of computers. They also do not look as cool.

Old organs have passionate fans as well, even if software versions now sound almost identical.

"For the player, the feel plays a big role, so the original can't be replaced," said Juergen Wolf, an amateur B-3 player who runs the International Archives for the Jazz Organ web site. "It is not for nothing that Hammond has just brought out a new version of the B-3."

Hammond introduced its B-3 organ in 1955, producing its sounds from 96 rotating tone wheels run by two levels of keyboards and bass pedals. Yet as synthesizers boomed

watching Native Instruments and others as they market what they say is a product "completely capturing the sound of the classic B-3 organ."
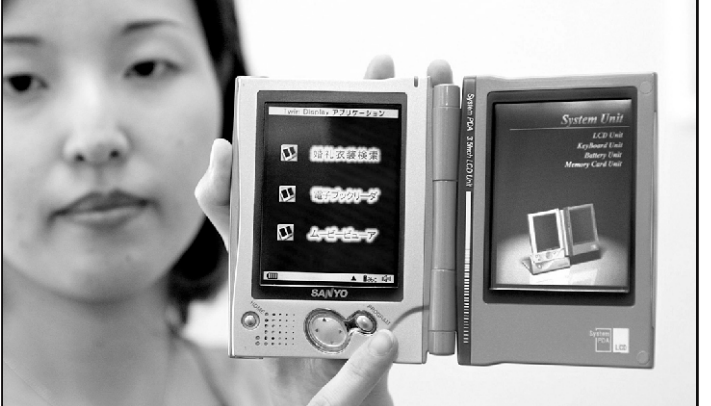
"Hammond could start a legal court process but they don't because they are a friendly company," said Michael Maier-Falkenstein, Hammond Suzuki's general manager for Germany, Austria and eastern Europe. "But if the B4 really draws away a larger section of people, maybe then Hammond will do something."

Native Instruments say sounds cannot be copyrighted so their product is legal even as they win awards for replicating a B-3.

Other instrument manufacturers appear resigned to seeing software evolve into dominant player in electronic music.

"The change will happen, but it will not be 100 percent," Tsutomu Katoh, chairman of Japanese synthesizer maker Korg, told Reuters. "People will still play and perform synthesizers in front of audiences."

PHOTO: AFP

Employee of Japanese electronics giant Sanyo, Chiaki Yasunaga, displays the prototype model of the double-page display personal digital assistant (PDA), based on the Linux OS, at the company's head office in Tokyo.

Dear Dr. Tech,

I am using Windows XP Professional Edition. It is running smoothly, but I don't know how to create a Start-up disk of it or, how to install it from DOS mode. Whenever I tried to install it from Windows 98 Start-up disk it says 'This program can not be run from DOS mode'. Please let me know how create start-up disk of Wndows XP.

Zakaria Habib

Dear Zakaria Habib,

Windows XP Professional Edition does not require a boot disk set, the installation CD is bootable and you can install XP from it, just configure your computer to boot from CD. You can not install XP from DOS mode or boot with Windows 98 start-up disk because the file system is different in Windows XP.

Windows XP Setup boot disks are available only by download from Microsoft. The Setup boot disks are available so that you can run Setup on computers that do not support a

bootable CD-ROM. There are six Windows XP Setup boot floppy disks. These disks contain the files and drivers that are required to access the CD-ROM drive and begin the Setup process. When you download the Setup disks, the download contains only one large program file. When you run the downloaded file, it extracts the files.

After you create all six disks, insert the first disk in the floppy disk drive, and then restart the computer. Note that the computer must be configured to boot from the floppy disk drive. In some cases, you may need to modify your computer's BIOS settings to do this.

You can download the Setup boot disks from:

Windows XP Home Edition
http://www.microsoft.com/downloads/release.asp?ReleaseID=3329 0

Windows XP Professional Edition
http://www.microsoft.com/downloads/release.asp?ReleaseID=3329 1

Email: dailystartech@yahoo.com

Check the box beside the correct answer

1. What is IRC?
   - ☐ Internet Relay Channel
   - ☐ Internet Respond Cha...
   - ☐ Internet Relay Chat
   - ☐ Internet Response Ca...

2. What was the latest stand-alone version of MS-DOS?
   - ☐ MS-DOS 6.0
   - ☐ MS-DOS 6.22
   - ☐ MS-DOS 95
   - ☐ MS-DOS 6.2

3. Which of the following is not a UNIX or Linux variant?
   - ☐ Sun OS
   - ☐ Red Hat
   - ☐ DOS
   - ☐ Debian

Name:

Occupation:

Address:

Contact Number:

E-mail:

Last week's answers
1. Interrupt Request 2. Internet Information File 3. user.dat, system.dat
Winner: Rezwan Salahuddin

Road 1, House 65, Block 1 Banani Model Town, Dhaka 1213

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

The original B3 organ

If your tastes run more toward the pulses of techno or the pop keyboard sounds of the 1980s, Native Instruments -- which says it is the largest firm in the software synthesis business -- makes software to simulate those sounds.

Another type of program, instead of using the computer to create sounds, plays back recorded samples of actual instruments so that,

"We are a combination of nerds and enthusiasts and very business related people," said company chairman Daniel Haver, who sports a pony-tail.

Haver is confident the six-year-old company's eclectic mix is the formula for success that may allow Native Instruments to go public.

"Our company has tripled revenue for years in a row," he said. "In a