

Tech Workshop

A step towards software export

Workshop on 'Software Project Management' at Dhaka Chamber of Commerce & Industry

NAFID IMRAN AHMED

WHERE is our software industry headed? Are we capable of meeting the needs of the software consumers around the globe? Are we capable of managing the software projects, which will be exported? A three-day workshop on 'Software Project Management (SWPM)' at the Dhaka Chamber of Commerce & Industry (DCCI) auditorium, which started on September 2, focused on the diversifying software export of the country.

The workshop was organised by the DCCI Business Advisory Service (BAS) in co-operation with the Centre for the Promotion of Imports from the Developing Countries (CBI), The Netherlands, German Technical Co-operation (GTZ) and Bangladesh Association of Software and Information Services (BASIS).

Hermann Nikolai, chargé d'affaires, Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany in Bangladesh, inaugurated the workshop as chief guest. Matiur Rahman, president, DCCI, chaired the inaugural session while Habibullah N Karim, president, BASIS, was also present as guest of honour. Laszlo Klucs, consultant for CBI, conducted the workshop.

Matiur Rahman's welcome speech on the export scenario of Bangladesh started the inaugural session. Bangladesh stands out as a potential software-exporting nation for its analytical and technological ability, he stated.

Chief guest Nikolai outlined that there is a gap in Bangladesh specially in case of efficient software project management. He also added that the workshop would help the participants to become professional in the software project manage-



Laszlo Klucs, consultant for CBI, conducting the workshop

PHOTO: STAR

ment. He also stressed the proper publicity to put Bangladesh in the map of global software market.

While talking to The Daily Star, Laszlo Klucs said the objective of the workshop is to provide technical assistance to the local software companies and help them export software to the European Union. Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Vietnam, Thailand and The Philippines are the five countries where CBI is conducting such workshops. The organisation is also focusing on IT-enabled services such as help desk, medical and legal transcription etc. While talking about the participants he said, "We found project management and marketing skills are weak. But there are certain improvements in quality certifications." He said that after the workshop he would visit some potential companies.

A total of 40 participants from the software sector attended the workshop. Md Emdadul Haque, project manager, DCCI-GTZ partnership programme acted as workshop co-ordinator. The first day of the workshop started off, describing the outline and with this the three-day workshop came to an end.

workshop course. The participants were introduced to the term 'project management', its advantages and 'software project management'. The first day of the workshop emphasised the key practices in Software Project Management (SWPM), which included knowledge about scope, time, cost and quality management, human resources, communication, risk and procurement management. They were also informed about project failure and success, programme management, stakeholders and project planning.

On the second day of the workshop, participants were introduced to software development lifecycles. They also learned about project planning tools and estimation.

Software Metrics, a major ingredient in the proper management of a software project, was the first topic of the third day at the SWPM workshop. After this the participants were briefed about quality standards and software quality, risk management and earned value management. A summary session followed them and with this the three-day workshop came to an end.

A short and effective workshop on web development @ British Council

SHUVRO

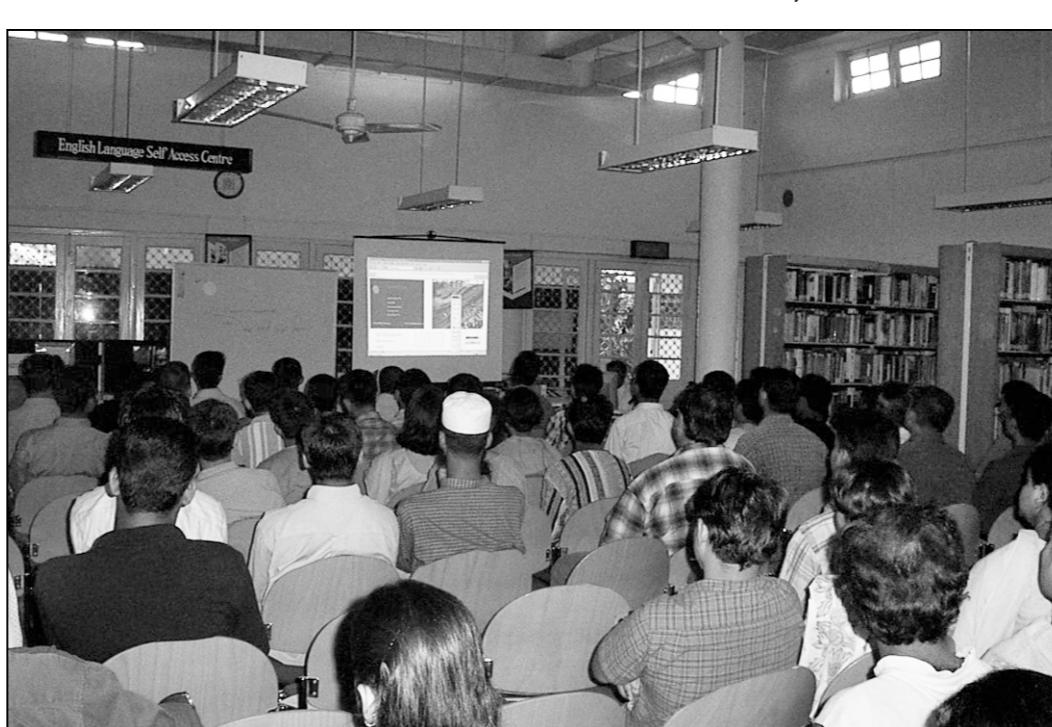
NEURAL Systems Ltd. organised a two hour workshop on web development at the British Council, Dhaka on August 29. The workshop was held in the library section of British Council at Fuller Road. The workshop started on 4:00 pm with a good number of participants. At first a speech was given on the history and basics of the Internet. Then some well-designed web sites created by the Neural students was shown in a multimedia projection screen. All the web sites were full of graphics and animation and built

with a touch of art. After this presentation the actual workshop started. In three different sessions, a sample web page was build before the participants using HTML, Macromedia Flash and Macromedia Dreamweaver. All lectures were delivered by the instructors of Neural Systems Ltd. After that another presentation of some attractive web pages was held. Among the web pages there was also the home page of Neural, which was an appreciating one. Another simple but good web page was the home page of 'Sandhani'. The students of Neural created all the web pages shown at the

workshop. At the last phase, questions of the participants, was answered by the experts of Neural.

From the workshop Neural announced their Web Site Fair at their Mohammadpur center which was held on September 1 and 2. They also offered 25% admission discounts for the participants of the workshop in any courses of Neural systems Ltd. for the next two weeks. Neural declared to send the certificates of the workshop to the respective address of the participants by post. The homepage of Neural Systems Ltd. is: www.neuralbd.net

Shuvro is a computer science student at the University of Dhaka



Workshop participants enjoy the web sites displayed on the projection screen

New Tech

Top 3 corporate laser printers



Price when tested: \$1550

Brother HL-2460N

Versatile workgroup model offers plenty of paper-handling options, including a \$400 duplexer and up to three additional paper trays. Though it came out a bit light, text looked evenly weighted and attractive.

Rated 25 pages per minute 2400-by-600-dpi maximum resolution

Legal-size paper, maximum 600 pages input, 500 output 16.8 in w by 17 in d by 11.9 in h; 28 lb

Price when tested: \$499

HP LaserJet 4100n

An optional infrared port, supplementing the standard ethernet interface, lets notebook users print directly from their laptops. This unit raced through our speed tests, and it reproduced text superbly.

Rated 25 pages per minute 1200-by-1200-dpi maximum resolution

Legal-size paper, maximum 600 pages input, 300 output 15.3 in w by 19.9 in d by 13.6 in h; 38 lb

Price when tested: \$1000

Game Tech

Nintendo releases new Mario video game

REUTERS, Los Angeles

HE'S short. He's fat. He's not a snappy dresser and he spends his day fantasizing about princesses. He's also responsible for billions of dollars in global sales since the mid-1980s.

He is, of course, Mario, the Plumber, star of stage, screen and the most successful video game franchise in history and on Monday, he returned to stores in his first original console game in six years, "Super Mario Sunshine" for the GameCube.

The little man with the mustache and the red overalls has been the backbone of his corporate master, Japan's Nintendo Co. Ltd., since 1985's "Super Mario Bros.," which was his first starring role in a video game.

"There's a lot of memories and a lot of nostalgia tied to Mario," said Mark MacDonald, executive editor of Electronic Gaming Monthly, a leading industry magazine. "People want that Mario game."

At this year's Electronic Entertainment Expo, or E3, the game industry's annual trade show, game fans were as eager to play "The Legend of Zelda" and "Metroid Prime" as they were to spend time with Mario.

Web site IGN.com (http://www.ign.com) voted "Metroid Prime" the best game of the entire show, while Gamers.com

(http://www.gamers.com), the Web site of Electronic Gaming Monthly, gave its nod for the show's top title to "Zelda."

Of more than 7,500 votes cast in a unscientific poll at game site GameSpot.com (http://www.gamespot.com), 32 percent said they were most excited about "Zelda" of all the upcoming Nintendo games, followed by 30 percent for "Metroid" and 22 percent for "Mario."

Game writers generally have praised the new Mario and expressed their eagerness to get their hands on the game, but have also compared it with "Super Mario 64."

"Super Mario Sunshine is here, and while it may not live up to the ridiculously high expectations set by its predecessor, it's still an enjoyable game that any platforming fan will immediately latch onto," Giancarlo Varanini, a GameSpot editor, wrote in a review of the Japanese version of the game.

MAJOR MARKETING PUSH

Nintendo dominated the U.S. video game industry until the mid-1990s when Sony Corp. hit it big with PlayStation, so it's no surprise Nintendo is putting a huge marketing push behind "Sunshine" to help the company restore its old luster.

On Thursday, Nintendo celebrated the game launch at a San Francisco event where, in a nod to Mario's heritage, it served more than 1.5 tons of pasta in a bowl three feet high and 10 feet wide. Nintendo claims the serving was certified by the Guinness Book of World Records as the largest of its kind.

Nintendo also will roll out a bundle package on Oct. 14, offering the GameCube, "Super Mario Sunshine" and an external memory card for \$189.95, a savings of about \$25 from what consumers would pay if the pieces were bought sepa-

rately.

Nintendo hopes all the promotional hype will, of course, turn in strong sales of "Mario," but as important as sales and profits, Nintendo investors need a confidence boost, too.

Its shares have fallen 34 percent on Japan's Nikkei index in 2002. Japanese financial analysts have said "Mario" sales are already partly

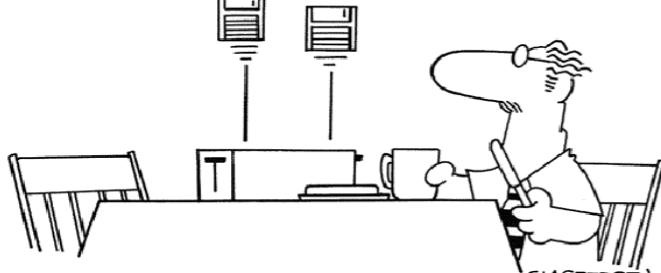
factored into the stock price but could provide a boost with stronger-than-expected results.

While not a financial analyst, Electronic Gaming Monthly's MacDonald provided some perspective of his own on the game's sales prospects.

"There's going to be a ton of people who are going to buy a GameCube now because they see Mario on it," he said. "It's bankable ... it's the kind of game that has legs. It'll sell constantly and consistently over the next couple years."



Tech Toon



Star Tech Quiz

7

Check the box beside the correct answer

1. Which command lists files in MS-DOS?

cd ls

dir list

2. What is downloading?

Sending a file on the internet Moving a file from a floppy

Retrieving a file on the internet Scanning a picture

3. UNIX is short for what?

UNIX eXchange UNIX

UNIform eXchange It is not an acronym

Name: Occupation:

Address:

Contact Number: E-mail:

Last week's answers

1. EXPerienced TMP 3. No level 2 cache

Winner: Manzur

T & T, Victory Road, Tangail

Please fill this up and send your answers to Star Tech Quiz, The Daily Star, 19 Karwan Bazaar, Dhaka 1215 by September 11, 2002.

Dr. Tech

Dear Dr. Tech, I doubt that somebody has come to know about my Internet password. Is there any way I can change my current email address? If so, please help. NSK

Dear NSK, I know how it feels when someone comes to know your password.

Although you have not mentioned your mailing system I assume you are talking about a webmail. So I am giving you two separate systems to change your password. One for Hotmail and one for Yahoo!

I hope this will solve your problem.

Hotmail

Free Web-based email services like Hotmail are a popular target for security attacks. To ensure nobody can read your emails or even send some from your account, you

should change your Hotmail password now and then, every few weeks at least.

To change your Hotmail password, go to your Hotmail home page, follow the Options link from the top toolbar and select Password. Type in your old and new passwords, retype the new password to verify it and select Continue.

Yahoo!

If you would like to change your Yahoo! password, just log in to My Yahoo! with your current password and click on the Account Info link at the top of the page. Then:

1. Enter your old password in the first box.

2. Enter your new password (as you would like it to be) in the second box.

3. Confirm your new password in the third box.

Click the "Change Password" button.

dailystartech@yahoo.com

Photo Tech



PHOTO: AFP

An electronic version of Sultan Baybars' Koran, inside the British Library in central London, 04 September 2002. The Sultan Baybars' Koran, first produced in Cairo seven hundred years ago, is the first Islamic script to benefit from the British Library's 'Turning the Pages' technology and allows visitors to 'turn' a selection of pages of digitised versions of major historical items in the library's collection and view them in greater detail than is possible from the original.

Tech News Snaps

ADB for bringing Sundarbans under tele-network

Marzia Mongiorgi, Task Manager of the two-member ADB delegation currently visiting Bangladesh Saturday proposed to bring the entire Sundarbans area under tele-communications network.

The proposal was made when the delegation called on Forest and Environment Minister Shahjahan Siraj at his Secretariat office. Responding to the call of the ADB delegation Shahjahan Siraj responded to the concerned authorities to consider the proposals with due importance. The ADB delegation discussed with the forest minister in details various aspects of protection of biodiversity of the Sundarbans as well as a sound management of its resources.

The members of the delegation requested the minister for reconstituting the Sundarbans Stewardship Commission and intensify its overall activities. They also underlined the importance of setting up a separate Wing under a Deputy Conservator of Forest for the Sundarbans to protect its biodiversity and sound management of its wealth. - BSS

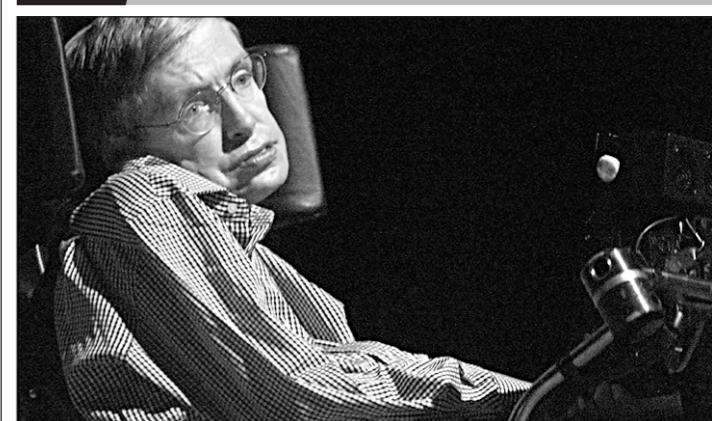
Aptech launches their month long "World's No. 1" campaign

Aptech Worldwide Bangladesh Limited announced the launching of their month long "World's No. 1" celebration campaign in Bangladesh. While addressing a Press Conference at the Press Club, Pranab K. Bose, MD, Aptech Worldwide Bangladesh Ltd, announced that Aptech, a global player in IT education and training has achieved the distinction of establishing IT educational Centres in 52 countries spanning five continents covering all prominent countries such as: USA, UK, China, UAE, Malaysia, Thailand, Pakistan, Australia, South Africa, Brazil and many more.

As part of the nationwide celebration, Aptech will be conducting technology seminars, workshops etc. in its centres to create IT awareness and literacy among the student community of the country. Speaking on the occasion, P K Bose stated that IT offers an opportunity for developing nations like Bangladesh, where there is no dearth of educated human intellectual capital, a critical ingredient in IT development and application, to find its place of honour in the Global economic market.

As part of the celebration, a special celebration offer of '20% off' on the course fees of its career courses was also offered. The offer will be valid for the month of September only.

Tech Guru



Stephen Hawking, the world-renowned physicist, delivers his lecture in Beijing, last month. Hawking attended the 2002 International Congress of Mathematicians that was held in Beijing from August 20 to 28.

Best 10 Websites

Category: Sports News & Information



CBS SportsLine

Fast Sports Facts & News.

URL