Tech Contest

Battle of brains at BUET

'BUET Loopers' advanced to the Beverly Hills' World Final

SHUVRO

ES!" Almost 60 heads in the silent room turned around to look at the direction the sound came from - one more balloon was floating above the

(ICPC), international research paper competitions among students and organisation of many seminars on technology and computing both by the main ACM body and its local

The contest has two rounds, the regional contest and the World

Final. The teams with the best results in the regional contests advance to the World Final. The ACM divides the world into various Today, it has over 80,000 regions. In every region there are

was formed with the BUET vicechancellor as the head. There were also different sub-committees under the organising committee. A total of 195 teams registered for the Dhaka site regional contest, which is the second largest for any other site of the world. This huge response reflects the keen interest in computer programming of Bangladeshi students. To ensure

the presence of every higher

Dhaka site twice in a row.

The BUET was preparing for the

ICPC event, regional for quite a long

time. The director of ACM ICPC

Dhaka site was Dr M Kavkobad, A

steering committee consisting of the

computer professionals and

computer scientists of the country

educational institute of the country, at least one team from every established university got the chance to compete. To encourage participation of girls, there was a three-team reserve quota.

A twenty-member judge committee was formed with teachers of different universities of Bangladesh. Dr. Muhammad Zafar Iqbal of Shahjalal University and Science and Technology headed the judge panel. For maintaining the fair environment of the contest a limited number of visitors could observe the competition. The latest result of the contest was also shown on the multimedia screen. From anywhere in the world, especially Bangladeshi citizens could

enjoy the contest through instance update of results at the ICPC page of the BUET web site

On November 9, final registration of the contest and a mock contest was arranged for the contestants. On November 28, from 9:50am to 2:50pm, the main contest was held and in the evening teams placed first to tenth were rewarded at the BUET auditorium.

Before the contest began, a lottery was held. After five very intense hours, the contestants came out of the labs, some beaming while others glum. Out of eight problems only one team was able to solve five.

Positio	Name of Institution	Team Name	Problems Solved	Penalt
n 1	Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology	BUET Loopers (Asif, Mehedi, Saifur)	Solved 5	476
2	Nanyang Technological University, Singapore	NT United (Pham Ming, Arun, Pham Thun)	4	486
3	Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology	BUET Sprinters (Sajjad, Kamruzzaman, Nasa)	4	638
4	North South University	NSU Aztecs (Monirul, Sadrul, Iqbal)	3	169
5	Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology	BUET Strikers (Ajmat, Shahed, Imranul)	3	464
6	Dhaka University	CSDU Hebe (Safwan, Shuvro, Zubaer)	3	467
7	Dhaka University	CSDU Helios (Ashraful, Shafkat, Ashfaq)	3	654
8	Islamic University of Technology	Compiler (Taher, Tareq, Imrul)	2	59
9	Dhaka University	CSDU Aether (Monowar, Faisal, Protik)	2	94
10	Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology	BUET Brute force (Mahmud, Pavel, Shahriar)	2	111



Honourable guests with the winners at ICPC 2003

computer of one of the teams. Then, once again, the sound of pens scratching swiftly away on paper filled the silent room. On that sunny day of November 28, 246 brains worked away on the third and fourth floors of the EME building of the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology

The Association for Computing Machinery (ACM) is the world's first and largest pedagogical and scientific computing society. Their activities include international collegiate programming contests

I am a new user and

me how can i get rid of work

pentium processor. But Additionally, if you are on

problem when I open my word is required to get

computer it shows me a onto your network, this

password box. Can u tell little trick probably won't

So you get an of that annoying logon

here is a way that should 2. Next, open the

"Last night Marty and I got more intimate

than we've ever been...we revealed our

internet passwords to each other!"

1. Which of the following is not a network protocol?

2. Which of the following is not a mouse technology?

RIP

PSI

Occupation:

E-mail:

1. used to find specific docuraeAtson 3. None of the above

The winner is requested to contact Star Tech and collect his/her prize

Please fill this up and send your answers to Star Tech Quiz, The Daily Star, 19 Karwan Bazaar, Dhaka 1215 by December 18, 2002.

H-E/6, B-G, K.G Shaha Road, Shalgaria, Pabna

Winner: Md. Altaf Hossain (Correct Answers: 2)

Optical

Optical-Mechanical

Creating magnetic media.

Medical software.

Check the box beside the correct answer

Please note that if 3. Finally, change the

screen:

Control Panel

Network Icon.

am using win98 with a

now a days I face a big

Dr. Tech

souce lee

Dear Souce lee,

get rid of it for you.

Tech Toon

Star Tech Quiz

Mechanical

Attachment for CPU

Erasing magnetic me

Motorised

3.What is degauss?

Contact Number:

Last week's answers

and resources on the web

Name:

Address:

HTTP

PIM

annoying network logon

screen every time you

boot Windows? Well,

Dear Dr. Tech,

computing professionals and students as its member worldwide and the public turns to the ACM for authoritative publications, pioneering conferences and visionary leadership for the new millennium. Each year the ACM arranges a worldwide programming contest termed ICPC - a universitylevel annual programming contest. This programming contest is held to showcase the best programmers from the world in front of representatives of large companies who are looking for talent.

you have your computer set up for multiple users,

this tip isn't for you.

a network and a pass-

Everyone else should be

If you're still with me,

here's how to rid yourself

1. Click Start, Settings,

Programming Contest World Final will be held in Beverly Hills near Hollywood. California during the Academy Awards week and all the regional site winners compete there for prizes, scholarships and bragging rights. The local sites for Asia region were Dhaka, Hakodate, Kanpur, Shanghai, Singapore,

sites where the regional teams

compete to advance to the World

Final. This year for 27th Annual

ACM International Collegiate

Tehran, Taipei, Manila and Taejon. The BUET hosted the contest for

Decision Support Systems - some thoughts

MUHAMMAD H KAFI

Tech View

CONTINUED FROM LAST WEEK

Data Mining

While data warehousing projects allow measuring business based on historical information, Data Mining allows the ability to predict the unknown or to identify a pattern from huge amount of data in order to create a subset. This subset of data can be further modeled facilitating customer behavioural analysis or profitability analysis. One of the significant areas where data mining has been successful is minimizing customer churn or defection.

DSS Architecture

Traditional data warehouses become the centre of all kind of analytical models and management reports. Most companies use this platform to further design and develop business models for customer profitability analysis, customer behaviour analysis, product trend analysis, financial budgeting and forecasting, operational, analytical and collaborative customer relationship management (CRM) and so forth. The reports either pre-canned or online can form the basis of board pack for senior management decision-making.

Benefit Summary Optimized Environment for Decision Support

One of the biggest shortcoming experienced by business users is the absence of a meaningful Management Reporting tool. Often management reporters are produced by amalgamating information from distributed applications. Thus requiring a valuable amount of business time to be allocated for preparing basic data for meaningful analysis, and this is not acceptable to them.

Integrated Query, Reporting and Analysis Tool

Decision makers constantly need the ability for faster, more efficient information access. In practical terms this means having a timely, efficient and cost effective mechanism to perform the following:

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∃ Product trend analysis Customer behavour analysis for effective CRM

Segmentation analysis

- ∃ Profitability analysis ∃ Distribution analysis
- ∃ Channel analysis
- ∃ Market research
- ∃ Service analysis ∃ Financial Analysis (P&L, Balance Sheet, Budgeting and

Forecasting etc.) The data warehousing tool-set allows drilling down to the most

detailed levels of information. The need for an efficient and successful EIS is enormous, as it would provide the 'traffic light' reports indicating key performance indicators (KPI) within the business. Hence, with the help of decision support systems (DSS) managers can quickly react to events. This is

vital for then in order to be profitable

Parent Legacy Systems

in an increasingly competitive

sional databases (MDDB) or

Cubes, users are able to view

information from different angles or

perspectives; thus providing

opportunity to perform "what-if"

analysis and apply all sorts of

Improved Sales and

business community for an effective

tool set for meaningful analysis.

Marketing analysis, on the other

hand, constantly seek customer

and sales information. The OLAP

solution provides a friendly, easy to

use, and optimised tool set with

features for on-line analysis of data.

Thus allowing Sales Management

team to analyse geographic

There is a greater need in the

"hypothetical scenarios".

Marketing Analysis

With the help of multidimen-

market place.

information in many dimensional view e.g., customer-productgeography-time Cube. Analysts in marketing can use it for sales and stock analysis, product trend analysis, goods in transit and also for product promotion and planning. Improved Financial

Management

In typical sales and marketing organisation, financial planner's detail the budget figures at channel, product group, and product item level throughout the business. The budget is announced predominantly on a six monthly basis. On the other hand, forecast figures are keyed in at a product group level. Thus there is a greater need from business for a 'server' based dedicated area where information navigation and consistent, rapid response time. The OLAP server's open architecture supports direct data access using standard spreadsheets, query, reporting or

A scaleable and high performance server has the capability for rapid processing of business critical information. The selection of a highperformance server with the OLAP server would be a perfect match for analysis sales, marketing and financial data within a scaleable client-server environment.

Reduced Learning Curve

One of the critical factors in developing and implementing a data warehouse is the learning process of the new technology. With a data warehouse, an application-

Reporting

Tech Snaps

Softfair'2003

"Shaping our future through computing" with this motto North South University Computer Club is going to organise a software exhibition titled "Softfair'2003" on January 30 and 31, 2003 at Lagon Convention Center, says a press release

After Softfair'2000. Softfair'2001 and ICCIT, this time NSU Computer Club is focusing on making this event in a larger scale. They believe that this exhibition will create a bridge between the IT companies and the students.

In the past 8 years, North South University Computer Club has arranged seminars, intra and inter University programming contests, workshops and many IT related programs. Technofun-fair'2002 with SONY AIBO and Tri University Programming Contest (NSU, Dhaka University and BUET) were the latest among them. This time the club is working with more than 100 members and five executives to arrange "Softfair'2003".

To learn more about Softfair'2003 interested person may contact NSU Computer Club at: North South University Computer Club, North South University or e-mail at computerclub@northsouth.edu

Photo Tech



US space shuttle Columbia sits atop its mobile launch platform 09 December 2002 after its move to Launch Pad 39A at Kennedy Space Center, Florida. The STS-107 research mission comprises experiments ranging from material sciences to life sciences (many rats), plus the Fast Reaction Experiments Enabling Science, Technology, Applications and Research (FREESTAR) that incorporates eight high priority secondary attached shuttle experiments. Mission STS-107 is scheduled to launch 16 January, 2003.

Best 10 Websites Category: Skin Care

pio-bacitic

BioPacific Skin Care "The World's Finest Natural Skin Care, Patented Protein Enzyme Technology, First Time Available to the Public after 20 years of

Acclaim in Exclusive Spas & Clinics, Proven

Results Guaranteed" URL: http://www.biopacific.org

 \sim HوO+

H2O Plus H2O Plus is the only beauty company in the world focused solely on the benefits of water. URL: http://h2oplus.com



Buy It On The Web.com

Proactiv Acne Solution - A favorite site for celebrity endorsed products featuring Rodan & Fields Proactive Acne Solution URL: http://www.buyitontheweb.com



Acne World.com From real-time assistance and on-line doctor visits to support groups and informational

resources, acneworld.com is changing the face



URL: http://www.acneworld.com Clearasil.com



You see it every day. But what do you really know about it?. Read facts about your face and taking care of it. URL: http://www.clearasil.com



Derm Select Skin Care DermSelect features the finest of Dermatologist



selected skin care products for acne, wrinkles, anti-aging, diaper rash, skin cleansers, nail care, psoriasis, moisturizers and more. URL: http://www.dermselect.com



Teramec-Direct.com

Make blackheads and acne turn into to clear smooth skin - fast-, and help improve the look of scars that may have developed because of

URL: http://www.teramec-direct.com



Acne Care Formula Acne Care Formula (ACF) specializes in a safe and effective topical treatment for people with

Acne Doctor.com

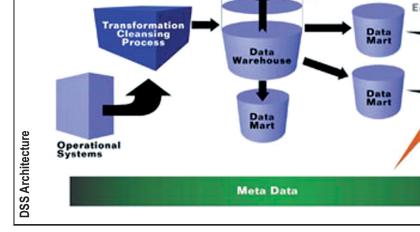
ACNE CLEARZ

MagicClear™ Acne System: An advanced formula, three step system that stops acne, heals blemishes and stops infection, for all



stages of acne. URL: http://www.acnedoctor.com





Decision makers constantly following:

Market or Customer

can be held and viewed by relevant parties within the business. Hence an optimised environment would permit significant benefits for measuring actual sales against budget or forecast. Having a dedicate area, finance can set up standard templates for business, which can be shared by business for entering forecast or consolidating budgets. On the other hand financial and business information from general ledger can be summarised in a dimensional model to show profit and loss (P&L): a P&L model is capable of showing strengths and weakness areas within the organisation; hence facilities senior management in

strategic decision-making. Improved Response Time OLAP supports multi-user read-

write access, robust analytical calculations, flexible data

Muhammad H Kafi is the Chief Technical Officer o

necessary, thus leveraging existing skills and software investment. The spreadsheet add-in would seamlessly provide access to features such as OLAP querying, and reporting. The OLAP wizard supports nested queries, hierarchy and attribution, ranking, filter and sorting of results. Also double clicking a hierarchy allows drilling down to bottom level of information. There is also a security feature

available ensuring read only access

for important information like

programming interface (API) would

directly link a spreadsheet session

with the server. Hence there is a

greater comfort feeling in using a

well-known package like Excel

where a limited training is

budget and forecast.