

Tech View

Attitude towards ICT in the era of globalisation

MUBIJUL ISLAM

WITH the effect of globalisation upon our heads it is extremely important for organisations in Bangladesh to reduce production costs, be efficient in daily processes and be more customer-focused to compete in the global market. All these and more can be achieved through the proper use of Information and Communications Technology (ICT).

Foreign organisations are taking full advantage of developments in the ICT sector to achieve all the tasks needed to remain at par. The changes have come in two parts: first a cultural change in the workforce where staff at all levels are not afraid of using computers and secondly adopting the right solution inline with the organisational requirements.

It is highly important for Bangladesh to promote these two changes in all sectors; the way it is important for a credit officer to use spreadsheets to model credit related data and analyse trends and for the senior management to be able to access the right MIS report to monitor bank credits.

It is not necessary for all staff members to be a 'techie'.

However, it is important for all to have adequate computer knowledge to be able to use it to achieve organisational objectives. For example, it is important for a credit officer to know how a system running Microsoft Excel can help him compare and visualise credit data and extract trends regarding credit defaulters.

The education system plays a vital role in the development of ICT skills. Basic ICT subjects ought to be included in all disciplines of study. Technical skills need to be developed both through the education system and by the institutions investing in the workforce.

It is said time is money and dependency promotes backwardness. Both are addressed by the use of ICT. Computer automation of an organisational process saves time and minimises dependency on particular staff members.

The results of cost-benefit analysis carried out by organisations become an inhibiting factor in embracing ICT, simply because they are not big enough to bear the risk of initial investment.

This issue can be handled in two ways; firstly by having a long-term vision and a business projection that gives a better picture about the total

cost of ownership and secondly by promoting development of ICT in the local market so that the purchasing cost comes down.

As cost is an important factor, such solutions do not become a liability but an opportunity. For instance a bank can jump the ICT bandwagon and purchase a banking system from abroad, without proper consultation or analysing institutional needs. The usual thought process goes: the system is expensive therefore must be good.

The results of such purchases could end up exceeding the predicted budget.

In condition, for Bangladesh to be able to compete in the era of globalisation, laid back attitude of organisations should be overthrown. Raising the level of the workforce and equipping them with the right skill sets so that they are creative and are not afraid of change is a necessity. The value of time and efficiency ought to be recognised by all as means to compete in the global market.

Mubijul Islam is a Senior Vice President and Head of IT of Premier Bank Ltd.

Tech News

The rebel poet goes cyber

www.nazrul.org

ARIF AHMED

Kazi Nazrul Islam said, "Even though I was born in this country (Bengal), in this society, I belong to the world."

An extraordinary, prolific and versatile poet, lyricist and writer, an undaunted unreserved authentic voice against bigotry, injustice and oppression, a passionate advocate of peace, freedom, harmony, love, compassion, humanism and beauty is Kazi Nazrul Islam, the Rebel Poet of Bengal.

The national poet of Bangladesh or more appropriately, a true World Poet, deserves to be known to the world outside, without being confined to the small Bangla-speaking community.

While every nation endeavours to promote their cultural

excellence beyond the bounds of their own nation, we seem to be content with paying lip-service most of the time.

Dr Mohammad Omar Farooq, however, took the initiative and developed a website on Nazrul in English, www.nazrul.org. It's a useful resource-centre on Nazrul for the non-Bangla speaking, the expatriates and the second or third generation descendants.

The site has nine main sections that include Nazrul's life, his works, works on Nazrul, Nazrul issues and reflections of the poet and his visions.

The site also contains photos ranging from his childhood to his final resting-place near Dhaka University mosque and Nazrul's audio collection as well. The audio files are a selection of his Hamd, Naat, recitations and speeches.

There is an interesting collage of excerpts taken from Nazrul's poetry highlighting his own views and feelings explicitly in his own worlds together with poetic tributes and dedications to Nazrul by famous literary personalities, including Tagore, Premendra Mitra, Annada Shankar Roy and others.

This website is a non-profit volunteer effort, a labour of love by a person whose inspiration comes from 'bringing the rebel to the cyberspace'.

So the rebel poet now has a cyber home taking his message of liberation, universal brotherhood and of courage and dignity to all across the world.

Arif Ahmed is a freelance journalist.



Dr. Tech

Dear Dr. Tech, I have an awesome wallpaper that's obscured by all those little icons cluttering my desktop? Is there a way to make them all disappear, at least temporarily? Please let me know. Snomeo

Dear Snomeo, If you are using Win 95 / 98, first, you need to have Active Desktop installed and active. If you have IE 4.0 or better, you're probably all set in this department. Here's the blow by blow:

1. First, open My Computer or Windows Explorer. From the View menu, go to Folder Options, then click the View tab.
2. Now, under the Visual Settings section, click the 'Hide icons when the desktop is viewed as a web page' checkbox. Hit OK.

If you already had your desktop set to be viewed as a web page, you'll find all your icons have magically disappeared. To get them back, right-click the desktop and select Active Desktop, then click the "View as web page" menu item. That will shut off the "view as web page" property and all your icons will re-appear. Right-click and repeat the procedure to get rid of them again.

For Win ME / 2000:

1. Right-click your Desktop and select Active Desktop from the resulting menu. A sub menu will pop up. If the Active Desktop item doesn't have a check next to it, click it. (Win 2000 users need to make sure the "show web content" item is checked instead).
2. From the same sub-menu mentioned above, click the "Show desktop icons" menu item to turn them on or off.

dailystartech@yahoo.co

Tech Toon



Star Tech Quiz

48

Check the box beside the correct answer

1. Upto what gigabyte does FAT 16 support?

- ☐ 3 GB ☐ 2 GB
☐ 20 GB ☐ 30 GB

2. What is the function of SMARTDRV?

- ☐ Increased security ☐ Extra storage
☐ Increased system performance ☐ Removable device

Name: _____ Occupation: _____
Address: _____
Contact Number: _____ E-mail: _____

Last week's answers

1. TCP/IP
2. Hypertext Transfer Protocol

Winner: Masudul Karim

House 12, Road 121, Gulshan 1, Dhaka.

Please fill this up and send your answers to Star Tech Quiz, The Daily Star, 19 Karwan Bazaar, Dhaka 1215 by July 22, 2003.

Tech News

Tie-up to tap ICT openings

STAR TECH DESK

ON July 8, World Destinations Limited (WDL), UK signed an agreement with Cyber Café Owners Association of Bangladesh (CCOAB) for outsourcing software and IT related jobs from UK and Europe.

Mohammed Zakir Hossain, Educational Consultant, WDL, UK and Arifur Rahman, convenor, CCOAB signed the contract at a local restaurant in Dhaka. Karar Mahmudul Hassan, Secretary, Ministry of Science & Information and Communication Technology was present as chief guest at the ceremony. Members and associates of CCOAB were also present at the occasion.

CCOAB and WDL-UK will cooperate in IT software and services including internet, e-commerce, information security, telecommunications and mobile commerce, human resource training, knowledge management, research and development. The two associations will lobby for policies, which will promote the growth of IT industry in Bangladesh. They will share information through periodi-

cals and other publications. Surveys and research reports are to be exchanged. Trade Missions between the two countries will be promoted and the association will assist publicise seminars and exhibitions.

The MOU will assist member companies in Bangladesh and the UK to explore business opportunities. There is no doubt that United Kingdom is one of the most successful locations in Europe for attracting Software companies. The UK's software sector is one of the most vibrant and fastest growing areas in the economy with a turnover of 9.9 billion Sterling Pound in 2001 that is forecast to increase to 15.69 billion Sterling Pound by 2006 (EITO Statistical Year Book-2002, and Key Note 2002).

While speaking at the ceremony, Mohammed Zakir Hossain said, "In UK about 1 million people are employed in computer related fields and more than half of these people work directly for software enterprises (Labor Force Survey, 2001). Major investors in the UK's Software sector include Microsoft Corpora-

tion, Oracle Corporation, SAP AG, Compaq Computer Corporation, Computer Associates International. More than 130,000 software and computer service companies based in the UK." He also said, "I believe that Bangladesh has achieved a huge knowledge about the Information Technology from the world market. Just India is an exact model for Bangladesh. Bangalore, Mumbai, Karnataka.... are the key places

for the IT industry of India where huge foreign investment done by overseas IT companies and a lot of job opportunities created."

While speaking at the occasion, Arifur Rahman said that Bangladesh should have a 'cyber village' like other countries. He said he was looking forward to working with WDL and make the best out of the tie-up.



Karar Mahmudul Hassan, Secretary, Ministry of Science & Information and Communication Technology speaks at the ceremony.

Virus Tech

Virus Alert II

After a recent research by Messagelabs and all other antivirus software firms, a list of virus has been short listed that have affected large number of computers miserably and still continuing its malicious attacks. E-mail worms are increasing day by day and their actions are getting strong competing with the antivirus detectors. To stay on the internet you need to keep your virus guard always updated in order to stay safe. Users of hotmail are mostly exposed to attacks since a lot of spams are received everyday. Here's a briefing on some of the latest viruses.

W32/Palyh.A-mm

Discovery Date: 17/05/2003; Aliases: W32/Mankx-mm, W32/Sobig.B-mm

The virus analysis says that this worm enters the infected user's address books, html and text files to find email addresses and sends itself to other computers through emails. The virus also drops a copy of itself as mscon32.exe and creates two registry keys that enable the worm to run whenever the computer starts. It can devote users by using false email addresses such as support@microsoft.com.

Lovgate.I; Lovgate.J and Lovgate.K

Discovery Date: 13/05/2003; Aliases: Supnot, I-Worm.Supnot

These viruses are versions of Lovgates and contain similar affects as the previous ones. Under the assessment of F-secure Lovgate.I, J&K have been graded at risk level 2. This is a mass mailing and network worm and these also have backdoor components. Apart from mass mailing they are also able to steal passwords typed from your keyboard. They also have a longer list of passwords to access the shared resources in your network.

Tech Snaps

HP Grand Lucky Draw

HP arranged a prize giving ceremony of it's Grand Lucky Draw at a local restaurant at Dhaka on June 10. Rumesa Hussain, Business Development Manager, Personal System Group (PSG) HP, BD; Shabbir Shafiullah, Sales Manager, Imaging & Printing Group (IPG) HP BD; Rezwana Ali, Support Manager, HP BD and the high Officials of the Premium Business Partners of HP in Bangladesh were present at the ceremony.



Gias Uddin won the first prize. He purchased a HP LaserJet printer and won a Sony Home Theatre with a Sony 29" color Television and a Sony Video Camera. Tanvirul Islam, the 2nd prize winner purchased a HP Inkjet printer and won a Sony Digital Camera. The 3rd prize winner Habib Ibne Ikram won a Motorola Cell Phone. He purchased an HP LaserJet printer. Green technology won a Sony 25" Color Television as the "Reseller Prize". The HP- GLD Promotion started on December 2002 and continued till February 2003.

Introducing BDFriends

Some friends landed their own chat server called BDFriends.

The server address is irc.BDFriends.org.

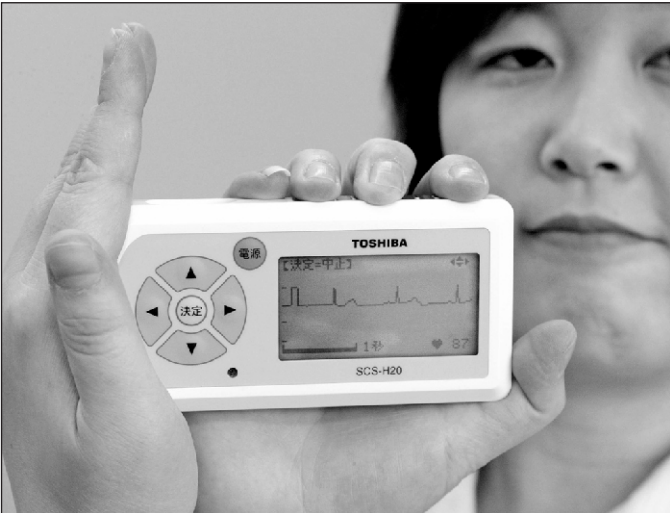
However they did not stop at that. They went on to create their own online community at BDFriends forum at www.BDFriends.org/forum and music sharing site at www.songs.BDFriends.org

One can also webchat at www.BDFriends.org/chat.

Now comes the good news. These people also provide unlimited dialup from link 3 technologies known as the NEKSUS for free and free subdomains as well.

So these latest efforts by the students are worth checking out.

Photo Tech



Japan's electronics giant Toshiba employee Rieko Sakurai holds a portable ECG meter to display her electrocardiograph "Heartpet SCS-H20" at the company's showroom in Tokyo on July 15. The Heartpet, measuring 124 x 60 x 18mm and priced at 38,000 yen (322 USD), enables to analyze irregularity of the pulse and to give advise to patients.

Best 10 Websites

Category: Cooking

ChefShop.com
ChefShop.com features weekly food articles, cooking advice, and seasonal information, along with over 1,500 of the best artisan-produced gourmet foods, ingredients, and gifts hand-chosen from around the world.
URL: <http://www.chefshop.com>

GoodCooking.com
A site devoted to cooking! Gourmet Cooking, Gourmet Recipes, Cooking Advice, Food, Wine, Nutrition, Eating, Culinary Information and Cooking News.
URL: <http://www.goodcooking.com>

Cooking.com
Cooking.com is designed to offer the best assortment of cookware, accessories and specialty foods available anywhere.
URL: <http://www.cooking.com>

CookingLight.com
Cooking and lifestyle magazine features sample articles on meal-planning and healthy cooking.
URL: <http://www.cookinglight.com>

kitchenlink.com
The Kitchen Link is a comprehensive, organized listing of recipes and food-related information available on the Net.
URL: <http://www.kitchenlink.com>

Food Network
Enjoy an entire evening devoted to cowboy-style cooking. This site includes recipes, wine review database, forums, and schedules.
URL: www.foodtv.com

Simple Cooking
Outlawcook.com is the e-zine companion to food writer John Thorne's Simple Cooking newsletter.
URL: www.outlawcook.com

Epicurious
Recipes, menus, chefs, drink suggestions, forums on food and cooking
URL: www.epicurious.com

Kids Cooking Club
For children, offering a cooking project each month complete with ingredients and newsletter.
URL: www.kidscocook.com

Texas Cooking
Southwestern recipes and cooking advice. Containing over 400 recipes, great food articles and news about cooking.
URL: www.texascooking.com



An unidentified man holds a laptop with a wireless Internet connection at a McDonald's restaurant on July 8, in San Francisco, California. Many McDonald's restaurants around the San Francisco Bay Area will be providing a fee based high-speed wireless access for people using wireless-enabled notebook computers and handheld devices.