

Tech Seminar



# Avant-garde solutions in the neighbourhood

## Computer Associates teams with Ingram Micro for their product distribution in Bangladesh

**NAFID IMRAN AHMED**

**V**IRUS, spam, data-crashes, mobile code threats and hacking attacks. With so many kinds of thriving threats, can anyone feel secure? If your only PC at home is so vulnerable, just imagine how small and large corporations are struggling to protect their boundaries. But the world's largest management software company Computer Associates International Inc. (CA) has solutions to proactively manage your entire security environment and the best

part is that they are available in the Bangladesh market.

At a 'Data Protection Seminar', held at Hotel Sheraton on September 13, CA announced their recent collaboration with Ingram Micro Components Asia Pte Ltd (Ingram Micro), the largest global wholesale provider of technology solutions, products and services, for the distribution of a wide range of CA products in the SAARC region including Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan, Pakistan and Maldives.

It was CA's first ever seminar in Dhaka and the focus was on the

latest advancements in storage and security management solutions, which Ingram Micro will be marketing. To secure, manage and protect data intelligently, CA is offering their newest trade marks such as Unicenter, BrightStor, eTrust and AllFusion.

"The demand for our products is growing rapidly in the SAARC region and we see a huge opportunity for CA to tap this market," said Pravir Arora, director of marketing and head channels for India and SAARC. He also mentioned Ingram's success in delivering effective solutions and said

e-Trust Secure Content Manager provides protection against: employee misuse of email and the web, confidentiality breaches, exposure to email legal liability, unsolicited email (spam), viruses, mobile code threats and other offensive materials. It also allows the customization of protecting specific needs and risk tolerance. e-Trust solutions are grouped into three areas: e-Trust Identity and Access Management, e-Trust Threat Management and e-Trust Security Information Management. These solutions cover and proactively secure an organisation's cross-platform, heterogeneous IT infrastructure. e-Trust Secure Content Manager includes extensive support of more than 40 platforms, applications and devices.

**Storage**

BrightStor solutions enable an organisation to economically manage the protection of data, derive more value from multi-vendor storage infrastructure and slow the administrative and man-

agement costs of maintaining storage environment.

The comprehensive BrightStor solutions offer the most complete set of integrated data and storage management capabilities available from a single vendor. These solutions can deal with storage issues at any level from monitoring the network to administering SANs; from managing data to automating processes; from document management to enterprise management.

**Enterprise Management**

For infrastructure management, CA's Unicenter family deals with issues of managing complexity, maximising IT staff productivity, and orchestrating the diverse resources of enterprise IT investment. Unicenter maps IT to the business and provides business relevant management tools.

Its high degree of automation has been extended to allow it to self-deploy, self-manage, and self-heal. This includes dynamic resource management, and introduces a new concept called

"service aware".

The foundation of Unicenter itself has been extended to meet these emerging requirements. Modular Unicenter components are seamlessly integrated, traditional domain walls have been eliminated, providing data transparency throughout the infrastructure.

Unicenter offers the broadest set of integrated components for managing the health and availability of each aspect of an organisation's computing infrastructure, for assessing and managing the cost of these components in the enterprise, and for managing the service to end users.

**Life Cycle Management**

AllFusion is CA's end-to-end family of life cycle management solutions for designing, building, deploying and managing eBusiness applications. AllFusion solutions help organisations model, develop and deploy applications across the enterprise. Coupled with efficient process and project management and CA's own Best Practices, AllFusion solutions can help organisations quickly respond to change, accelerate time-to-market and remain competitive in today's evolving marketplace.

There are many enterprises in Bangladesh who can benefit by adopting CA's solutions to dramatically improve their business output. But it's up to CA, Ingram and their resellers to bring these technologies into focus and educate businesses on the importance of securing, storing and managing data, the most vulnerable entity in today's information age.



A South Korean boy looks at a diagram showing the theory of nuclear energy at a science museum in Seoul on September 14. South Korea admitted Tuesday it had produced uranium metal at undeclared sites but downplayed the UN nuclear watchdog's concern about its controversial nuclear activities. Science and Technology Minister Oh Myung said he found no problem with new revelations by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) that South Korean scientists produced 150 kilograms (330 pounds) of uranium metal in the early 1980s.

Tech News

## 'Bichoyon' expands into a net version

**RIDWAN A KABIR**

**T**ECHNOHAVEN Company Limited (TCL) officially launched the web version of their community research quarterly 'Bichoyon' on September 9 at their office located at the ICT Incubator. The net edition is accessible at two different locations, www.srj.cc and www.bichoyon.ws.

Many academic and political figures including Gonoforum President Dr. Kamal Hossain, Manzurul Karim, chief editor of *Bichoyon* and Habibullah N Karim, editor of the magazine were present at the ceremony. The first issue of *Bichoyon* came out six years ago. Initially targeting the young generation of the country, the publication wanted to present an analytic overview of different social and communal problems. The idea of this non-profit publication was to involve youth in the development of the nation. The production cost was entirely covered by TCL and the magazine was distributed for free in more than two thousand academic institutions throughout the country.

"Covering the publication cost was a major obstacle, which is another reason why we decided to shift to a net version of the journal," said Editor Habibullah N Karim. Because of high printing costs, TCL had to stop the publication in 2002,

after the 8th issue. After a two year gap, the 9th issue is finally out and available online. The editor still hold hopes for publishing a limited number of the paper version parallel to the web edition for people who do not have access to the net. Dr Kamal Hossain noted that the majority of the population does not have internet connection and an average citizen of the country cannot afford the cost of patronising cyber cafés. Because of space and time factors, a lot will be left out in the web version of *Bichoyon*.

"We will monitor the next one or two web versions and see what kind of impact it makes. Depending on that we will go ahead with any desired changes," informed Karim. Asked if TCL plans on an English version of *Bichoyon*, Karim mentioned that bilingual editions will be considered once TCL gets clearance from the Department of Films and Publications (DFP). "We seek co-operation from the policy-makers of the country on this matter," he states. Dr Kamal Hossain urged the administrators of the site to prepare an impact-assessment of the efforts of *Bichoyon* since its inception. He stressed the need for the administration to rededicate themselves towards the rudimentary cause of the magazine.

On advertisement of the sites, Karim mentioned that TCL plans to approach Bangladeshis living abroad through popular email groups of different websites. "We are hoping for complimentary exchange of

advertising with these sites," he added, emphasising their non-profit angle.



Habibullah N Karim, editor of Bichoyon speaks at the occasion while Dr. Kamal Hossain (right) looks

Water Bug-bot

## Engineer builds robot that walks on water

**AP, Pittsburgh**

**I**T could be called a mechanical miracle, a robot that walks on water.

With inspiration from nature and some help from research at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, a team led by Carnegie Mellon engineering professor Metin Sitti built a tiny robot that can walk on water, much like the insects known as water skimmers or Jesus bugs.

It's only a prototype, but some researchers imagine the water-skimming robot could have many uses. With a chemical sensor, it could monitor water supplies for toxins; with a camera it could be a spy or an explorer; with a net or a boom, it could skim contaminants off the top of water.

Producing it was "the final challenge of microrobotics," said Sitti, who runs Carnegie Mellon's NanoRobotics Lab. "It needs to be so light and so compact."

Sitti's robot is little more than a half-inch boxy body made from carbon fibers and eight, 2-inch steel-wire legs coated with a water-repelling plastic (technically making

it a waterspider).

It doesn't have a brain, any sensors or a battery. Its "muscles" are three flat-plate piezoelectric actuators pieces of metal that bend when electricity runs through them. Wires run from the actuators to a power supply.

The robot can stand on water it

mers walked on water until last year.

Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) mathematician John M.W. Bush and two graduate students solved the riddle by placing dyes and particles in water and using a high-speed video camera.

The MIT team discovered that water striders move by pushing down on the surface of water with enough force to create valleys, but not enough to break the surface. The water then bounces back like a trampoline to push the insect forward.

Sitti's prototype shows how important lighter and stronger materials have been to robotics.

"If you had asked us 10 years ago to build a water bug, I don't think we would have done it," said Mark Cutkosky, an Stanford University engineering professor who has been building roach-like robots.

Sitti's robot weighs about a gram, about the same as half a dime. So far, it's also cheap. Sitti estimates the materials in his spartan prototype cost about \$10.



doesn't float and can skim backward and forward, propelling itself with two legs that act like oars. Sitti said he could build a more complex water-skimming robot within six months.

Sitti's prototype is especially impressive considering researchers didn't know how water skim-

Tech News

## Oracle wins antitrust case, can pursue PeopleSoft



Oracle headquarters in Redwood Shores, California

**AFP, San Francisco**

Oracle can pursue its 7.7 billion hostile takeover bid for rival business software maker PeopleSoft, a federal judge has ruled in a stunning setback for the US Justice Department.

US District Judge Vaughn Walker, in a ruling late Thursday, found that the government failed to prove its antitrust case against Oracle.

Walker put his 164-page

ruling on hold for 10 days to allow Justice to appeal.

"This decision puts the onus squarely on the board of PeopleSoft to meet with us and to redeem their poison pill so that the shareholders can accept our offer," Oracle Chairman Jeff Henley said after the decision.

PeopleSoft shares shot up 2.40 dollars, or 13 percent, to 20.35 in pre-open trading.

The ruling marked a surprising shift in one of the most bitter corporate takeover battles to hit Silicon Valley and the high-tech industry.

Oracle, based in Redwood Shores, California, formally renewed its request to start negotiations with PeopleSoft, based in nearby Pleasanton, California, in a letter after the ruling was announced.

"We are disappointed in the

Court's decision," said R. Hewitt Pate, assistant attorney general in charge of the Justice Department's antitrust division, in a statement late Thursday.

"We believe the facts and evidence in this case support our position that Oracle's proposed acquisition of PeopleSoft would result in a substantial lessening of competition" in the enterprise software field. "The Department is considering its options."

The Justice Department had argued that Oracle, PeopleSoft and Germany's SAP are the only companies that develop and sell the high-end integrated human resource and financial management software used by big companies and government agencies.

While the ruling is a victory for Oracle and its combative chief executive Larry Ellison, the

business software developer still faces a possible appeal from the Justice Department, as well as other court and regulatory hurdles.

PeopleSoft has been actively opposing the takeover plan.

PeopleSoft said in a statement that it "will review the implications" of the court decision, but noted that its board had rejected each of Oracle's offers as inadequate.

Also, PeopleSoft said it was pursuing its litigation against Oracle, seeking more than one billion dollars plus punitive damages for its rivals alleged "unfair business practices, including a deliberate campaign to mislead PeopleSoft's customers and disrupt its business."