TECHNEWS

BanglaFox on test

Ekushey and Ankur unleash the first package of FireFox 1.0.2 in Bangla

NAFID IMRAN AHMED

BANGLA computing has taken another step forward as Ekushey (ekushey.org) and Ankur Group (ankurbangla.org) jointly introduced FireFox's Bangla interface and released a Bangla language (bn-BD) extension for Mozilla FireFox 1.0.2. last month.

It was FireFox's increasing popularity and, above all, easing Bangla computing for Bangla speaking community that made Ekushey and Ankur take up the project. The 'Bangla bn-BD Mozilla localization project' is their initiative to translate the Mozilla browser and other Mozilla applications in Bangla.

Without any financial support from government or non government organisations these two groups, who have been working together for a long time, made them already came out with some of their successful outputs, such as Unicode Based cross platform Bangla computing solutions, Acquiring Bangla letter Khanda-Ta's position in Unicode page and Live Bangla Linux.

Anyone who has Unicode enabled Bangla in their operating system can use this extension and enjoy FireFox's Bangla Interface, which is downloadable from http://firefox.ekushey.org

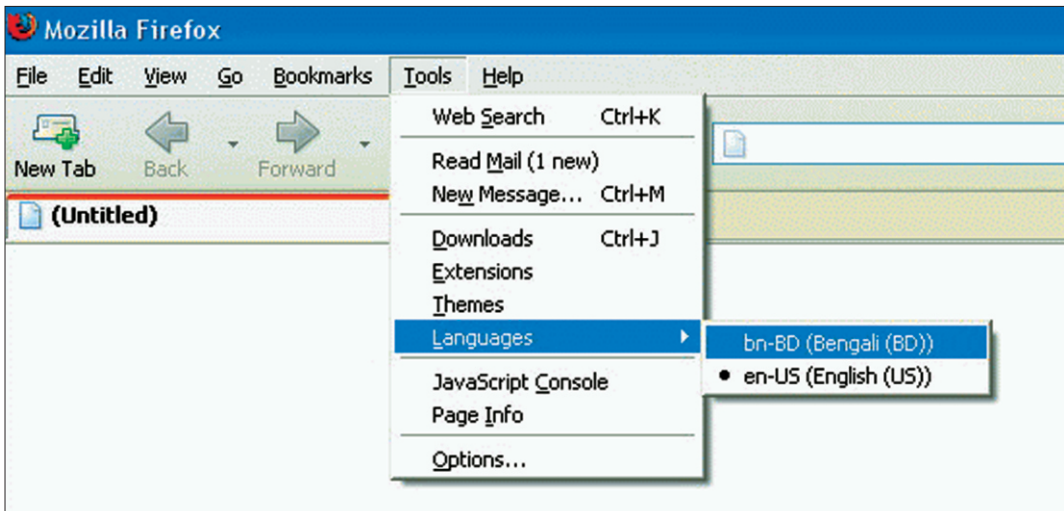To enable Bangla in Fox, one shall need Windows 2000/XP/2003 (Windows XP SP2 Recommended) or any Linux distribution with Unicode Bangla Support (Fedora Core 3 Recommended).

The Bangla interface Extension is still in its testing phase and need user feedback to make it 100 percent perfect.

The platform independent browser Mozilla FireFox is becoming everyone's favourite with its enhanced features, such as Tabbed Browsing, Popup blocker, Special Download Manager, Extension Support, Huge Security support, Latest Scripting, Customisable Skin and above all it's Open Source is taking FireFox it the peak of it's popularity. Anyone who has knowledge on Bangla can contribute to Ekushey and Ankur by joining them in the project.

To get Bangla interface in your FireFox, one needs to download and install FireFox 1.0.2 first, then by clicking a link install the Language Switcher Extension, restart FireFox and go back to the installation link and install Bengali Bangladesh language by clicking another link and update FireFox. Then under the menu, Tools -> Languages and select bn-BD (Bengali BD)). This will make Bangla as Fox's GUI language. Now after restarting FireFox your browsing experience in Bangla will start.

The test build has some spelling mistakes and English Messages. The developers seek user feedbacks to correct these. So it doesn't stop here. This is just the beginning and it's up to the Bangla computing community and all its users to make it better by sending feedbacks and contributing to the developers with their suggestions and inputs.

PHOTOTECH

Workers watch as US space shuttle Discovery being moved into position in the Vehicle Assembly Building (VAB) early March 29 at Kennedy Space Center, Florida, in preparation for mating to its external fuel tank. NASA engineers are busy preparing the Discovery for May 15 launch date to mark it return to flight after the space shuttle Columbia accident.

PHOTO: AFP

TECHNEWS

IBM holds iSeries customer summit

SYED TASHFIN CHOWDHURY

THE iSeries Customer Summit 2005 was held at the Spectra Convention Center last Thursday. Organized by Thakral Information Systems Limited, the strategic Alliance partner of IBM for Bangladesh, Bhutan and Nepal for all range of IBM hardware products, software, applications and services, the event had three speakers from IBM and IMAS, an integrated management and accounting system.

The first presenter, Thanuja Weeratne, senior business development manager, IMAS Corporate Soft, South Asia, spoke about the competitive advantage that can be gained through IMAS.

"Competitive advantage is the key to survival. Everyone wants to be at the top, and IMAS has what it takes to get you there," said Thanuja Weeratne.

IMAS, the brainchild of IBM Australia, has developed a powerful business suite that gives its clients excellence at every level of operation. IMAS provides retail, manufacturing and distribution solutions to clients along with decision support, financial and inventory solutions and consulting services.

Various small and large firms including insurance companies, food distribution centres, retailers and importers, light manufacturers, chemical companies and paper makers are clients of IMAS.

Abhishek Jain and Amol Modak, iSeries sales managers of IBM, discussed various features of the IBM eServer iSeries while speaking at the event. This series of IBM's premier business servers are designed to help clients to improve productivity while reducing costs and complexity. The server is equipped with IBM's innovative POWER5 processors and comes with new on demand pricing options.
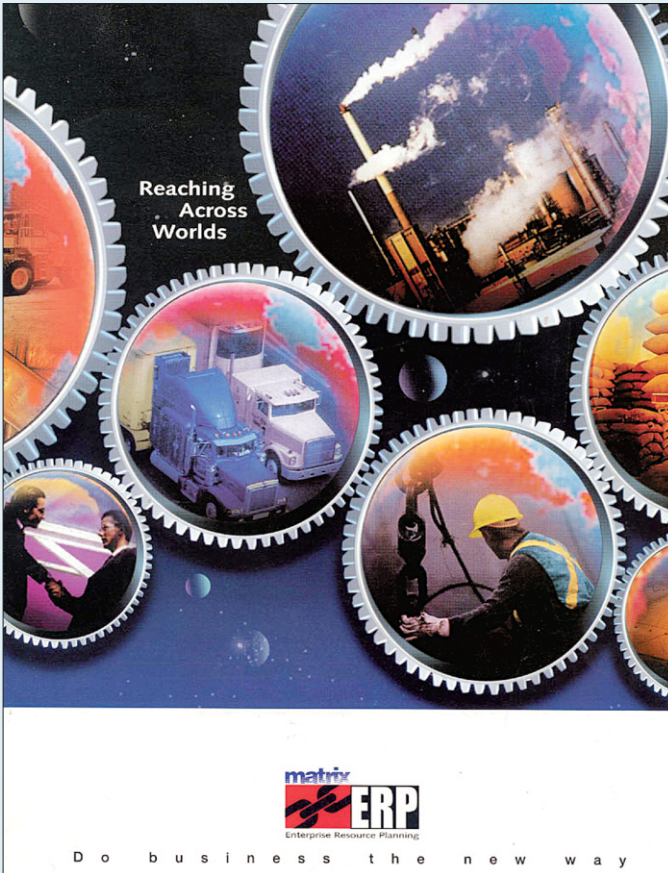
IBM eServer iSeries delivers a broad choice of applications available on a single server with the versatility and flexibility to help meet the requirements of all kinds of business.

TECHNEWS

Matrix ERP: the new solution for local business

STAR TECH DESK

KOLKATA based ERP specialists, Matrix Infosystems Ltd., recently announced the launch of their comprehensive ERP (Enterprise Resource Planning) Solution, Matrix ERP for the Bangladesh market.

The time-tested experience that the company has had in the field since the last five years have not only allowed companies all over the globe to further enhance their business processes, but have also allowed a better and more advanced software to come into being with constant research and development (R&D), which can deal with the flux that the global economy has been in, in the recent past.

In today's fast changing corporate world, information at right time, with the right person, at the right place is the only way to fulfill those requirements and to get an edge in this competitive market.

The fast changing Bangladesh economic scenario, advanced business processes are the need of the hour. Corporates in Bangladesh are already feeling the necessity of an effective and integrated information system for their organisations.

Progressive companies like Keya Cosmetics and OTOBI are already in the process of implementing an ERP solution from Matrix Infosystems Ltd. through their business partner in Bangladesh, Emkay Infoway based in Dhaka.

Matrix is one of the leading software development companies located in India. After creating a niche for itself in Indian market the company is rapidly expanding its operations abroad. Founded in 1990 this ISI:9001-2000 company has a population of over 140 spread across the globe.

"The success of our company lies in the fact that we have always remained focused on product development for SMB (Small and Medium Business) sector through continuous R&D (Research and Development) and obtaining latest technologies in the respective areas. Matrix offers his customers the low cost solution, timely implementation and the quality solution," said Alok Agrawal, CEO of Matrix Infosystems Ltd.

Matrix ERP is industry proven and currently serving more than 25 industry verticals like, Retail, Food Processing, Chemicals, Pharmaceuticals, Construction, Jute, Furniture Manufacturing, Health Care, Hotels and Restaurant, Engineering etc. The company also plans to add 10 more verticals in the next one year, the result of intensive the and the tape research and development at the Matrix labs in Kolkata manned by a dedicated team of software professionals.

The company has strategically teid-up with gobal giants like IBM Premier ISV Partner, Microsoft Managed ISV Partner (only 7 in India) and Novell Technology Partner, in order to serve their clients better.

Commenting on the partnership between Matrix and His and and Emkay Infoway, Sirajuddin Ahmed, Managing Director of Emkay Infoway said, "We are looking forward to create a win win situation for both of the companies through the successful implementations of Matrix solutions in Bangladesh, which we have started with Keya and OTOBI."

On selection of Matrix ERP, Animesh Kundu, director of OTOBI said, "We were searching for an integrated solution for our day-to-day operations, which came to an end when we saw the demonstration of the Matrix ERP. The modular nature, tightly coupled modules, workflow, flexible reporting, corporate dash-board, low cost data export/import within the various locations are some of the examples why we have chosen Matrix ERP as our operation Back Bone."

According to the resellers, the software has made a global run and is now all set to provide a smooth operation for the neighbouring economy that is futuristic and advanced. For further information, one may visit www.matrixinfosystems.com

Trial Balance
From 01-04-2000 to 31-03-2001

Account Head	Closing Debit	Closing Credit
ADVANCE TO SUPPLIER	6343.26	0.00
CASH AT ALLAHABAD BANK	824.15	0.00
CASH AT FEDERAL BANK	3807.87	0.00
CASH IN HAND	2769983.55	0.00
CURRENT ASSETS,LOANS & ADVANCE	1665559.66	0.00
EARNEST MONEY DEPOSIT	52533.00	0.00
FIXED ASSETS	211163.10	0.00
M.SHAH & CO(AUDIT FEE)	0.00	19950.00
MR.T.LJOSE	0.00	31257.25
MR.T.L.PAULOSE	0.00	884203.25
MRS.B.PAULOSE(LOAN)	0.00	300000.00
PROFIT FOR THE YEAR 98-99	0.00	596133.25
PROFIT FOR THE YEAR 99-00	0.00	1459599.58
PURCHASE	8201000.83	0.00
SALES	0.00	9472558.55
Total	**22491498.41**	**22491498.41**