

Paul V. Galvin was the founder of telecommunications company Motorola. Founded as Galvin Manufacturing Corporation in 1928, Motorola is now a leader in communications equipment. Motorola started as Galvin Manufacturing Corporation in 1928. Galvin was born in Harvard, Illinois. He served as an artillery officer during World War I. Galvin came up with the name Motorola when his company started manufacturing radios for motorcars. The name came to him one morning as he was shaving. It seemed to him to suggest motion and radio.



TECHWORKSHOP

New mindset and marketing skills can make difference

Workshop on software industry tells

SYED TASHFIN CHOWDHURY

"Proper marketing of Bangladeshi Software, right methods and adequate improvement of such marketing skills and changing the existing mindset of government officials are required for overall development of the Bangladeshi software industry," said Professor M Shamsheer Ali, president, Bangladesh Academy of Sciences.

The professor was chairing a workshop titled *Issues for the Development of Software Industry: Bangladesh Perspective*, co-organised by Institute of Science and Technology (IST) and Bangladesh Computer Council on June 29 at the IST auditorium.

"At present academia and industry are like two different poles and they need to be brought together for the overall development of the software industry," said Dr. Hasan Babu of Dhaka University.

Babu also pointed out that most Computer Science and Engineering students who are graduating from the various public and private institutions need to have a real-life programming experience, which needs to be facilitated by the academia and government authorities together.

Speakers also pointed out lack of proper education, research and training for skilled manpower, lack of infrastructure, lack of public awareness and participation and improper choice of technology as major drawbacks of the software industry.

"Most employees and officials working for software firms lack proper communication skills, which could have aided them to develop adequate solutions tailored to satisfy the customers' needs," pointed out Ahmedul Islam, chief operating officer of Bangladesh Japan Information Technology (BJIT).



M Shamsheer Ali, right, president, Bangladesh Academy of Sciences, speaks at the workshop as Professor Shahida Rafique, centre, chairman, Governing Body of IST and Dr. A M Choudhury, executive director, Bangladesh Computer Council (BCC) listens.

Islam also mentioned that the industry is at a budding stage and problems like taxation, which was initially imposed in the proposed budget, may hamper it from properly culminating into the two billion dollar sector that the government has always dreamt it to be. The speaker also pointed out the lack of a proper internet infrastructure.

Prof. Shamsheer Ali later pointed out that the evaluation of the software industry is not being done properly and is extremely necessary in order to document and facilitate its future progress.

Members of the audience also participated and were given the opportunity to ask various important questions to the speakers, later a question and answer session.

"We need to update the existing National University syllabus in order to be in tune with the global computer science and engineering academic institutions," said Manjurul Karim, a

former IST student.

"Students can gain a better experience through internships and group-based work while studying at the academic institutions, which will be extremely helpful for their careers," said Mahmud Hossain, CEO of Millennium IT while answering a student's query about effective job experiences.

During the end of the event, Professor Shahida Rafique, chairman, Governing Body of IST, who presided over the workshop, briefly summarised the notable solutions, which can be undertaken by the Ministry of Science and ICT (MOSICT) and other concerned departments to improve the current situation of the software industry.

"Apart from developing skilled human resource in the institutions and provision of high-speed communication facilities, Government, academicians and entrepreneurs should co-ordinate their efforts," said Rafique.

She further pointed out that the proper evaluation of local and international demand for software and proper pricing techniques has to be formulated by the concerned authorities.

"A copyright law and appropriate strategies to attract local and international customers are also extremely necessary considering the current situation," concluded Rafique.

Also present at the event as special guests of honor were noteworthy individuals such as Engineer Monjurul Ahsan Munshi, Member of the Parliament, M M Bahauddin, editor, The Daily Inqilab, Ms Taslima Hossain, editor, Anannya.

Dr. A M Choudhury, executive director, Bangladesh Computer Council (BCC) was the co-chairman of the session while Hasan Sarwar, assistant professor, IST was the coordinator of this workshop.

TECHEVENT

Cisco impressed with Bangladesh market

Cisco Enterprise 2005 held

SAAD HAMMADI

It all started when a couple went desperate in trying to communicate through network and computer systems in December 1984 at Stanford University, which led to world's first multi-protocol router and since then it's been 20 years since Cisco Systems started their journey.

Cisco showcased a wide array of networking products and solutions at the 'Cisco Enterprise 2005' last Tuesday at a local hotel. In their much known existing LAN and WAN products, this time they had introduced IP telephony alongside some of their latest innovations with advanced technologies in routers.

Rangu Salgame, the company's president for India and Saarc who was on a visit to Bangladesh for a day, took the pleasure of informing that Cisco in its twenty years has had great innovations in terms of technology as well as the market. It has invested more than USD \$3 billion just on their research and development (R&D) and today it has a yearly revenue of USD \$22 billion of which has USD \$17 billion in cash.

"Over the last 10 to 15 years as internet has become the de facto for corporate worldwide, Cisco has been the leader in setting standard for the internet protocol (IP) technology. We have 35,000 employees worldwide and over the last 3 to 5 years we have significantly invested in a large R&D centre in Bangalore, India, where we are developing our new products for this region," said Salgame.

"The world's leading corporation today runs up on networks and internet, and that help us increase productivity and gain sustainable advantage against the competitors. The second thing that we try is our customer satisfaction.

Our CEO, John Chambers does not start a meeting without first addressing the top ten issues of our customers", proudly said the president.

The president was happy enough with the adoption of advanced technology here and he feels this region understands the importance of advanced technology because the companies want to leapfrog generation of technologies and be able to compete against their competitors with the best technologies.

As part of their educational programme Cisco had tied up with 9 academies in Bangladesh where they are associated with Cisco Network Academic Programme (CNAP) having 932 students certified of what have 100 scholarships awarded to women as Cisco Certified Network Associates (CCNA). Cisco defines it as giving back to the society in terms of creating employment and skilled labour force.

Banking sector has been one of the key adopters of IT in Bangladesh, with four nationalised, thirty private-commercials and ten multinational banks. Cisco's noted clients in this sector include Dutch Bangla Bank Limited, The City Bank and The Exim Bank. The other thriving sector for Bangladesh at present has been the telecom market where Cisco is a solution provider for Grameen Phone, Pacific Bangladesh Telecom Limited and AK Khan Group.

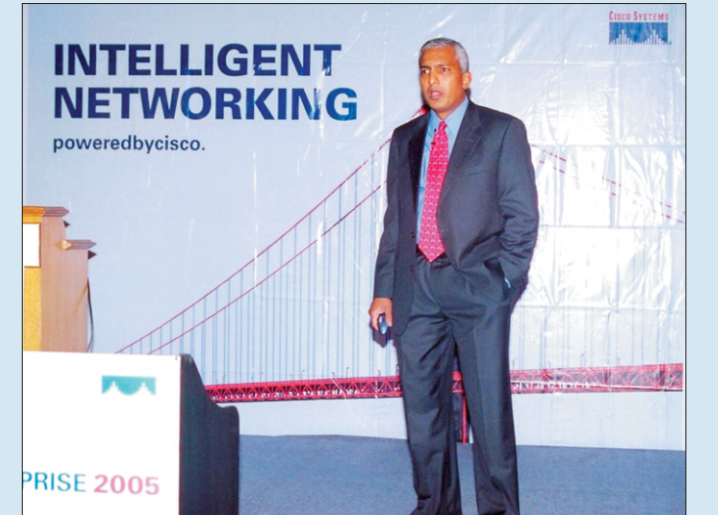
The session next to Salgame's words were based on the technical aspects having IP telephony on focus as its latest technology. IP telephony is basically a mechanism of internet protocol doing the function of Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN) but in an enhanced and versatile layout than the existing ones. The phone devices exclusively used for IP telephony are driven thru in

line power switches. In line power switches make the connection between the switch and IP telephony established thru RJ45 adapters that are configured in the phone sets as well besides the traditional RJ11 adapters that are used in regular telephone sets.

The IP phones have been classified with different technological solutions of what may be at video telephony solution, software communication thru desktop or remote PCs, Gigabit Ethernet IP phones and wireless IP phones.

added services among what could be a replacement of automated teller machines (ATM) for non cash transactions in banking sector as Selvam had pointed.

Integrated Services Router is Cisco's latest technology in routing that is built with high performance platform, as well as it can run multiple services. It has embedded security with inbuilt firewall, IPS and VPN concentrator. ISR has been built on a platform of 800, 1800, 2800 and 3800 series that represent a new architectural design specifically



Rangu Salgame, president for India and Saarc, Cisco Systems, addressing during the event.

'CallManager', a device used to prevent unauthorised access of IP phones, authenticates the communications between any of these phones. A Callmanager in a corporate location can capacitate a maximum of 10000 IP phones.

Thunai Selvam, senior consultant, Cisco systems (India) Pvt. Limited, explained the features of the IP phones that are capable of performing unified messaging which transfers voice mails into emails. Inclusion of extensible markup language (XML) in the IP phones open the gateway for numerous value

to fit the needs of SMBs. The Cisco System's SMB Class portfolio of networking solutions emphasizes on networking with security, availability, and quality of service designed specifically for smaller companies. This time routers in its new avatar fit in with more user-friendly security and network management tools and a shift in graphical user interface.

PHOTOTECH



INTERVIEW WITH THE ANDROID

Vladimir Lenski, a reporter with Russian TV's Channel 1, interviews an android version of sci-fi writer Philip K. Dick developed by Hanson Robotics in collaboration with The FedEx Institute of Technology at the University of Memphis and the Automation and Robotics Research Institute at the University of Texas -Arlington at NextFest 2005 in Chicago, Illinois on June 24. The life-like robot has cameras in its eyes to allow it to track faces and recognize people.

TECHNEWS

Clouds off from software industry

FINANCE minister M Saifur Rahman has withdrawn the 10 percent corporate income tax (Cit) in his wrap up speech on the proposed budget for the FY 2005-2006 last Wednesday. Had it not been done, the ICT associations would have suffered in their internal investments.

When asked, Fahim Mashroor, the CEO of Bdjobs, was pleased to inform StarTech that government had to realise the impact on the domestic market if the software industry weren't freed from Cit. He also explained the effect in terms of foreign investments as most of them consider the viability in terms of tax measures prior to their investment in every sector.

Sarwar Alam, the president of Bangladesh Association for Software and Information Services (Basis) had stressed on the fact that software should not be considered as only an export sector used for earning foreign currencies only, but a major investment by itself for the development of the country. The president was speaking at a roundtable discussion to address the government co-organised by three major ICT organisations of the nation -- Bangladesh Computer Samity (BCS), Internet service providers association of Bangladesh (Ispab) and Basis.

Prior to the withdrawal of the Cit, Basis sent a request with initials from their 120 members to the Prime Minister's Office

(PMO). "Knowledge and competition have become the two major factors of production in the present economy and information technology is the main driving force to acquire them in this present society. Our deficiency lies in our understanding for which even now when IT has been identified as a key source of development we are not prioritising it", pointed out Abdul Awal Mintoo, the president of Federation of Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI).

Observing the remarks from the software industrialists and other noted fellows, the president had promised his effort to persuade the government

regarding this issue.

More than 350 software companies are operating in the country with 6000 graduated IT professionals. The current value of the software market is about Taka 200 crore, of which 50 percent to 60 percent come from local entrepreneurs.

Recently, Basis has observed that the software market has witnessed 122 percent export growth in the last six months. Unlike other industries exports of software earn 100 percent local value addition. The average payback period is over five years with investments from taka 30 lacs to taka 3 crores.

Saad Hammadi

World's first fuel cells robot

AFP, Tokyo

A Japanese company said it has developed a humanoid billed as the world's first robot powered by easy-to-replace, environmentally friendly fuel-cell batteries.

Speecys Corp, based in Tokyo and headed by former Sony robot engineer Tomoaki Kasuga, will on Friday begin selling the 50-centimeter (20-inch) tall, 4.2-kilogram (9.24-pound) robot carrying a built-in hydrogen cylinder.

Fuel cells produce electricity through a chemical reaction between hydrogen and oxygen, leaving water as the only by-product.

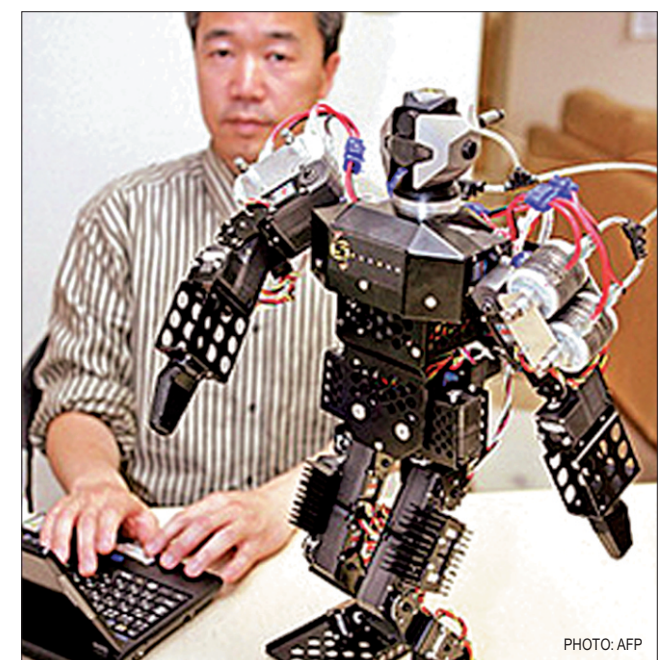
Fuel-cell batteries in cartridges can be easily replaced in contrast to conventional batteries that take hours to recharge.

"Fuel cells are a promising material as the source of energy for operating robots in the future," Speecys said in a statement.

"We believe that it is more suitable for (humanoid) robots to get fuel in cartridges as if they were having meals rather than to get batteries recharged," it said.

Speecys-FC is priced at 2.5 million yen (22,730 dollars) a unit, five times as pricy as a previous version run by conventional nickel metal hydride batteries.

The company aims to sell 10 units of Speecys-FC a year for research and display purposes.



Japanese robotics venture Speecys CEO Tomoaki Kasuga displays Speecys-FC.

NEXTFEST



THE SKYCAR

The Moller Skycar sits on display at NextFest 2005 in Chicago, Illinois on June 24. The Skycar, which boasts speeds up to 563 kilometer-per-hour (350 miles-per-hour), is expected to be available to the public by 2009. Nextfest 2005 is a futuristic design expo which opens to the public in Chicago this weekend.

PHOTO: AFP