

QWERTY keyboard

Pronounced kwer-tee, refers to the arrangement of keys on a standard English computer keyboard or typewriter. The name derives from the first six characters on the top alphabetic line of the keyboard.

The arrangement of characters on a QWERTY keyboard was designed in 1868 by Christopher Sholes, the inventor of the typewriter. According to popular myth, Sholes arranged the keys in their odd fashion to prevent jamming on mechanical typewriters by separating commonly used letter combinations. However, there is no evidence to support this assertion, except that the arrangement does, in fact, inhibit fast typing.



startech@thedailystar.net

TECHSPOTLIGHT

IDF 2005

Intel to launch low-voltage chips, focus on digital home



Visitors scrolling through different stalls in the exhibition area of IDF 2005 in Bangalore. PHOTO: STAR

NAFID IMRAN AHMED, back from Bangalore, India

WHAT does the future of computing and mobile communication have in store for us? Well, the eye-catching gadgets that we often see in the movies may not be just an imaginary product anymore. The ever-changing world of computing is about to take another turn, promising to mesmerise us with a host of new offerings. Intel, the global chip giant showed off road maps for its server, notebook, desktop and mobile chips for 2006 and 2007 at its Intel Developer Forum (IDF) on October 6 and 7 at Bangalore, India.

The theme outlined by Patrick P Gelsinger, Intel Corporation senior vice president and general manager, Digital Enterprise Group, revolved

less than the 110-watt maximum of today's Xeon processors.

Lower power consumption is vital to PC and handheld makers as chips get ever more powerful. The new architecture behind Merom, Conroe and Woodcrest contains a number of technological enhancements.

Servers: Intel will come out with a dual-core server chip, code-named Paxville, later this year. The initial version of Paxville will fit into two-processor servers. In the second half of 2006, Tulsa, for four-processor servers, will debut along with Woodcrest. Then in 2007, Whitefield, Intel's first four-core processor, will come out. Whitefield is being designed in the company's labs in Bangalore.

Desktops: Presler, a chip out of the

Paulo, Brazil; and Shanghaini, China. These centers are working on a number of local technology and platform initiatives throughout several countries.

Though the company is yet to announce the price, the community PC is expected to cost less than Rs.10,000 in the Indian rural market.

"We will provide the design to assemblers for building the PC with a better performance. Besides the regular features, the PC will also have wireless Internet access in rural and remote areas," Intel vice-president said.

"Unlike the standard PCs that operate on 240 volts, the community PC has been designed to run on an 80 volt power source. Its platform has



The ultra-mobile PC

The Indian subsidiary is in talks with the Uttaranchal and Karnataka governments to start pilot projects on Wimax in their respective states.

"We are building the wireless infrastructure so as to gear up for the Community PC in the rural market, whose potential remains to be

sors like Yonah and Conroe will provide enough performance to stream video content to multiple rooms in a home, he said. A quick-boot process will allow users to push a button and start using the Viiv PCs instantly.

Innovation for the Enterprise

Extending Intel innovation around several key capabilities to improve performance per watt measurements for IT as well as boosting productivity through embedded IT and seamless collaboration efforts, Gelsinger said that Intel platforms and technologies will enable enterprises to proactively prevent problems from occurring in their networks and react more quickly when they occur.

Patrick P Gelsinger, Intel Corporation senior vice president and general manager, Digital Enterprise Group (left) listens to Lenovo managing director during his keynote speech. Don McDonald, senior vice president and general manager of Intel's Digital Home Group, (right) talks to the press after his keynote address and 'Golden Gate' (below), a ultra slim PC that will hit the market next year.

PHOTO: STAR

around Intel's new platform directions, reducing power consumption and Intel's role in driving innovation. About 1,500 engineers, developers and industry leaders from India and South Asia participated in the two-day annual session held at the Bangalore Palace grounds.

Gelsinger explained how the company's next generation, power-optimised micro-architecture will enable a new category of converged consumer devices for emerging markets, mobile platforms, digital home and the enterprise.

"Intel has combined its R&D innovation, manufacturing and technology leadership with energy-efficient micro-architectures and powerful multi-core processors to deliver unique platforms best tailored to individual needs," said Gelsinger.

IDF devices and chips

Merom, a notebook chip coming in the second half of 2006, is expected to provide substantially more performance than current notebook chips. Another chip coming a few years later is expected to consume a maximum of 5 watts of power, and an ultra-low-voltage version, 0.5 watts. Current Pentium M chips for notebooks consume a maximum of about 27 watts.

Conroe, a desktop relative of Merom coming out at the same time, will consume a maximum of 65 watts. Current Pentium 4s consume close to 95 watts. In servers, Woodcrest will consume a maximum of 80 watts, far

Pentium 4 line, will appear in the first half of 2006, while Conroe will follow in the second half.

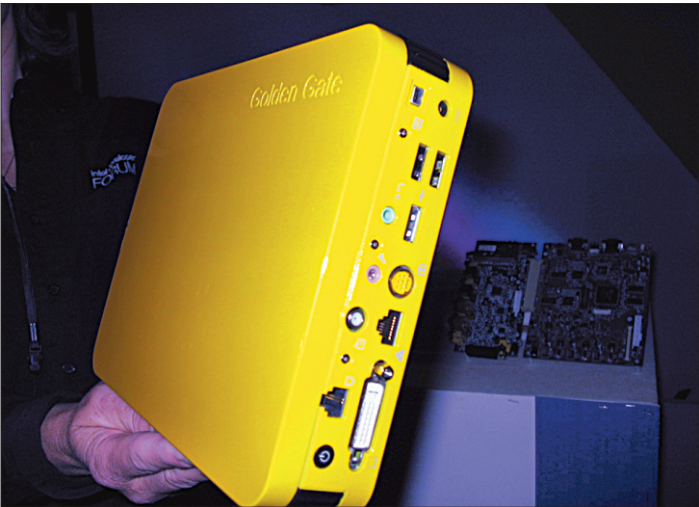
Notebooks: Yonah, a new notebook chip, will appear in the first part of 2006, before Merom.

Innovations for Emerging Markets

The world's largest chip-maker, has designed a low-cost community PC (personal computer) for launch in rural India by year-end to specifically meet the requirements of India's rural and farming communities. Currently being piloted in 10 locations across India, the Community PC is designed to provide Internet access to entire communities and villages in rural and remote areas.

During his keynote, Gelsinger explained that the Community PC is capable of functioning through the use of a car battery as its back-up energy supply, as electricity supply is sporadic in many rural parts of India. In addition, to meet the unique conditions of rural environs, the computer contains special screens and filters to reduce the amount of dust and insects that can enter the box and impact reliability. The computer has also been designed to handle extreme heat conditions -- more than 38 degrees Celsius (excess of 100 degrees Fahrenheit).

The Community PC is an example of how Intel is driving growth through localised computing solutions. Intel has established platform definition centers in four key markets: Bangalore, India; Cairo, Egypt; Sao



been built to work on AC or DC line," Gelsinger said.

Wireless and Mobility

While addressing innovations in the area of mobility, Gelsinger explained that Intel is involved in several trial deployments around the world to test the feasibility of WiMAX (wireless broadband). These trial deployments has shown how the promise of standards-based wireless broadband can impact the way that businesses and governments work, commerce is conducted and students learn.

Gelsinger also demonstrated several new capabilities planned for the company's next generation mobile platform, codenamed Napa, designed to lower power consumption yet improve graphics and wireless capabilities.

tapped," said Intel South Asia marketing director Amar Babu.

The Digital Home

Intel has come up with a brand name for home entertainment PCs that the company believes will provide quality experience. Intel 'Viiv' technology (Pronounced 'viv' and rhymes with 'five') has been designed to enrich consumers' enjoyment of digital entertainment.

PCs with the 'Viiv' brand name will start appearing in the first quarter of 2006, said Don McDonald, senior vice president and general manager of Intel's Digital Home Group, in a keynote. It will be easy to use with a remote control, will be powered by a suite of Intel technologies, and surrounded by a number of verified consumer electronics devices, soft-

TECHPORTAL

scholarsbangladesh.com

Intellectuals' directory and much more

A large number of Bangladeshi scholars have been living in different developed countries of the world and are engaged in services in their respective fields. But the country in which they were born and bred is unaware of their outstanding services and expertise. The aim of a recently launched website, scholarsbangladesh.com, is to bridge the gap between these scholars and their homeland.

Scholar Search

Currently listing more than 10,000 scholars, the website stores information on the scholars of Bangladesh by their profession, village and name. Anyone can search for their required person through these three criterions.

Scholarsbangladesh.com wishes to form a 15-members advisory council to administer the regular activities of the website. National experts living in different parts of the world are to be selected in the fifteen member council that is planned to include two members living in Bangladesh, two from Asia-Pacific, two from Europe, one from Africa, five from North America, two from Australia and one from the Middle East.

Scholars in the news

There is a monthly section for scholars who have been written about or who's ideologies or any other contribution has been acknowledged by the newspapers.

Scholars of the year

The website invites those scholars who have contributed to the nation by means of education, research, science, technology, culture and political influences. The five best scholars will be recognised in the 'Scholars of the year' section for their role in national development.

Scholars Birthday

Birth dates of the nationals who have contributed to the development of the nation are posted on the website, which allow fans to make their greetings and wishes to their desired persons.

Journal

There is a journal section, where professional scholars make their contributions and therefore information and knowledge seekers can find worthy informa-

tion in this place written by various professionals.

Next Generation scholars

The website also holds information on the nationals who were born abroad or lived outside the country such as the non-residential Bangladeshis and made various inventions or innovations.

Jobs

Those who wishes to come back and serve their country but seek jobs prior arriving can put their resumes on the website as well in the jobs section. Both, the employers and job seekers would be benefited out of such information.

Idea Centre

This is where non-residential Bangladeshis can participate for the development of Bangladesh by means of their contribution in aspects such as their own opinions, ideologies and knowledge sharing. This section will also mention the procedures of contributing and the persons' tour information if required to visit the country for that purpose. On the other hand even the nationals who contribute outside the country will be able to find their credit for their performance and achievements.

Ask Questions

As mentioned in the website, general people can make their enquiries regarding various issues to professionals and eminent personalities.

Vote and opinion

Those who are willing to share their views and ideas can do so in this section. This will also be counted as part of the development in the society and the nation as well. If the advices and opinions are valid or relevant, only then they would be published on the website.

Important Links

Scholarsbangladesh.com has arranged a section containing important links to those websites that are worthy.

Publisher

This section lists the publication houses including important books and journals.

Foundation

Scholarsbangladesh.com was established by Scholar's



Foundation. Those who are admitted in the government colleges and medical universities or engineering would be provided scholarships through this foundation. Research and development for basic education will also be carried out by this foundation. Educational institutions established at home or abroad by the nationals would receive scholarships from this foundation too.

The site's founder and president ME Chowdhury Shameem who was working for IBM Corp. New York, Poughkeepsie, as a production specialist told The Daily Star that the site's concept is not entirely new. The United Nations was among the first to explore an innovative way to non-resident professionals back to their country through their programme called Transfer of Knowledge through Expatriate Nationals (Token). This programme was launched by the UNDP with the aim of reversing patterns of brain drain by encouraging expatriate nationals to volunteer their expertise in the service of their homelands for short period of time. It is currently instituted in more than 25 countries such as Turkey, India, China, Philippines, Poland, Palestine, Vietnam, Lebanon, Syria, where highly skilled expatriate provide successful technical expertise, policy advice and research to governments, public and private sector expertise, universities and research centres in various fields.

The website will be officially launched today.

Nafid Imran Ahmed

PHOTO TECH



THE SCIENCE OF ALIENS

Examples of Alien art at the Science Museum in London (top), while a young visitor studies a Sea Spider (middle) and another visitor looks at a Fangtooth fish on October 13 at the new exhibition "The Science of Aliens" which runs from October 15 until February 26, 2006.

PHOTO: AFP