



## Seminars@SoftExpo 2007

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THE apex body of software industry, Bangladesh Association for Software and Information Services (Basis) in their immediate past SoftExpo successfully organised an array of seminars and roundtables in order to create IT awareness for the sustainable development of the society.

This year Basis arranged eight seminars and roundtables at the Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre (BCFCC) during the five day-long mega exposition of software industry that started on March 28.

Prominent personalities, IT professionals, academicians and politicians delivered their speech and interacted with the audience to share their vision and expertise. Interested people from different professions, students and faculty members from different university participated these programmes.

The first roundtable on 'Fight Against Corruption-Role of Information Technology' was held on the second day of SoftExpo and prominent economist Prof Dr Mozaffar Ahmed, chairman, Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) presided over the roundtable and Habibullah N Karim, former president Basis delivered the keynote speech.

"All ministries should implement internet facilities in all segments and tender process should be taken into consideration", said M A Muhit, former finance minister.

Hua Da, country representative, Asian Development Bank (ADB), stressed the necessity of technological content in education especially at the primary level. Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury, former commerce minister, gave a practical example of Chittagong Stock Exchange (CSE) where IT implementation dramatically reduced corruption.

Discussants of the roundtable unanimously agreed that corruption is a major setback for socio-economic development of the society. In this regard, IT can play a provocative role to prevail corruption by ensuring transparency.

Second roundtable on the same day titled 'Corporate IT Procurement: Challenges & Best Practices' emphasised on the procurement process based on IT. Aref R Bashir, managing director, SynTec Consultation unveiled several strategies regarding this issue.

A seminar on 'Rural Develop-



Dr. Zafar Iqbal speaks at a seminar organised by BdOSN, top, (below: from left) Hua Du, country representative, ADB speaking at a roundtable on 'Fight Against Corruption-Role of Information Technology' and panel of guests at a seminar on rural development through ICT jointly organised by Basis and D.Net.



ment through ICT: Bangladesh Experience' jointly organised by Basis and Development Research Network (D.Net) was held on the third day of SoftExpo.

Abdul Muyeed Chowdhury, former adviser, caretaker government and chairman Bangladesh Telecentre Network was the chief guest of the seminar. In his speech he elaborated three types of IT services to uplift the living standard at the rural level. These services include IT service in health, education and land information.

Another seminar on the same day, entitled 'Open Source & Open Content' was organised by Bangladesh Open Source Network (BdOSN). Munir Hasan, national project coordinator, Strengthening the ICT Capacity of Prime Ministers Office, in his keynote speech systematically described different issues to promote open source in real life activities.

D.Net for rural development.

Speakers focused on 'Common Access Point', while mentioning the importance of IT at rural level. The implementation of IT at root levels and resulting in economic development were the main topics of discussion. Speakers also discussed about 'Mission 2011' with objective of development in rural sector, part of which is setting up 40,000 telecentres countrywide within the year 2011.

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"Open source can not bring any breakthrough in business if there is no dynamic leadership", said Fokhrul Zaman, co-founder and CTO, Millennium Information Solution Ltd., while delivering his keynote speech. He also analysed open source from business perspectives and mentioned "Open source can give us freedom from vendor lock in".

Dr Zafar Iqbal, Dean, School of Applied Science & Technology, SUST, in his speech as chief guest urged everyone to work together to promote open source.

He also envisioned that, one day Bangladesh would become a unique platform for open source lovers.

On the fourth day another roundtable on 'Electronic transaction in ICT Act 2006-New Business opportunities' was organised having SM Wahiduzzaman, managing director, Datasoft Systems (BD) Limited was the keynote speaker on that occasion.

secretary, ministry of science and information & communication technology as the chair. He mentioned about the pilot project related to the set up of govt. community e-centre for the benefit of rural community through IT.

Barrister Tanjibul Alam presented his papers as the keynote speaker. He talked about the legal validity of electronic transaction under the newly gazetted sections of ICT ACT-2006. The passing of this law has given legal recognition over online & cellular transactions which will play an important role in promoting e-commerce.

A roundtable on 'Non-Traditional Financing for Software & ITES Industry' took place on March 31. Sarwar Alam, President, Basis presided over the roundtable while Senior Vice President of Basis, Rafiqul Islam Rowly presented the keynote paper.

"There are more than 450 registered software companies in the country employing around 5,000 technical professionals. The market size of software and IT enabled service industry within the country estimated to be more than Tk. 300 crore per year", Rowly shared this statistics in his presentation.

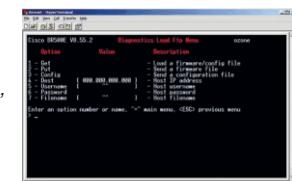
At the end of Basis SoftExpo 2007 another two roundtables also attracted concerned persons. The first round table on 'Awaiting Opportunities: Aligning IT Education towards Software Industry Needs' encompassed several renowned academic personnel including Dr Jamilur Reza Chowdhury, vice chancellor, BRAC university.

Remaining roundtable on 'IT Outsourcing to Bangladesh: New Growth Trends' highlighted the obstacles and opportunities of outsourcing. Mahboob Zaman, managing director, Datasoft Systems (BD) Limited was the keynote speaker on that occasion.

Ideas and suggestions that came from the seminars and roundtables need to be implemented in the right way and in time. In this regard, government and other private organisations can come forward to take pragmatic steps to consider these concerns to build up a true knowledge based society.

### FTP

File Transfer Protocol (FTP) is a commonly used protocol for exchanging files over any network that supports the TCP/IP protocol (such as the Internet or an intranet). There are two computers involved in an FTP transfer: a server and a client. The FTP server, running FTP server software, listens on the network for connection requests from other computers. The client computer, running FTP client software, initiates a connection to the server. Once connected, the client can do a number of file manipulation operations such as uploading files to the server.



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### TECHNEWS

## EMI, Apple to sell DRM-free songs online

AP, London

BREAKING from the rest of the recording industry, EMI Group said Monday it will begin selling songs online that are free of copy-protection technology through Apple Inc.'s iTunes Store. The deal, however, doesn't include music from the label's biggest act, The Beatles.

iTunes customers will soon

customer going forward is to tear down the walls that impede interoperability," Jobs told a London news conference.

He has previously argued there was little benefit to record companies selling more than 90 percent of their music without DRM on compact discs, then selling the remaining percentage online with DRM.

Some analysts suggest that



Headphones are displayed on an apple computer screens, Apple's iTunes store would become the first online retailer to sell the new format that EMI is offering.

be able to buy songs by the Rolling Stones, Norah Jones, Coldplay and other top-selling artists for \$1.29, or 30 cents more than the copy-protected version. The premium tunes also will be offered in a higher quality than the 99-cent tracks.

EMI Chief Executive Eric Nicoli said The Beatles music catalog is excluded from the deal, but said the company was "working on it." He declined to say when a time frame for negotiations over the catalog.

The announcement followed

ache. Some music players, for instance, support one type of DRM software but not others.

The DRM used by Apple does not work with competing services or devices, meaning that consumers can only download songs from iTunes to work on their computers or iPod music players.

The lock between the download services and players has drawn criticism from European industry regulators, who argue that it limits buyer choice.

"Doing the right thing for the

lifting the software restrictions could boost sales of online music, which currently account for around 10 percent of global music sales.

Jobs said that he planned to offer around half of all music in the iTunes store under the premium package by the end of the year, but declined to say whether the company was in discussions with other leading record companies.

## City IT fair 2007 kicks off

### STARTECH DESK

Samity (BCS).

GUEST of honour, Mahafuzur Rahman, chairman ATN Bangla in his speech urged the government to take proper initiative to promote local software in the global market.

SM Wahiduzzaman, secretary, Ministry of Science and ICT, formally inaugurated the fair at the BCS Computer City.

"It is high time for us to utilize information technology to eradicate poverty," said Chowdhury at the inaugural ceremony organised by Bangladesh Computer

prices to attract customers. Apparently, there is a soaring demand for CD and DVD at the fair.

Regular discussions will take place during the fair. Visitors can enjoy free internet browsing and take part in the blood donation campaign. Disable people and school students will get free entrance. This fair is sponsored by Liteon, Lexmark, Gigabyte and Asus and media partners are ATN Bangla and Radio Today FM 89.6.

### TECHNEWS

## Prices for .com and .net to rise

AP, New York

THE master-keeper of Internet addresses ending in '.com' and '.net' two of the most popular domain name suffixes said Thursday it would raise fees charged to register those names.

The annual levy for '.com' will increase 7 percent to USD 6.42, and the '.net' fee will go up 10 percent to USD 3.85. The name fees are what VeriSign Inc. collects from companies that sell domain names on its behalf, and such charges are generally incorporated in the prices companies, groups and individuals pay to register names.

With about 62 million '.com' names and 9.1 million '.net' names in use, VeriSign stands to ultimately make USD 29 million a year from the increase, which will take effect Oct. 15.

However, the price hike applies only to new name registrations and renewals, and customers can lock in the old prices until Oct. 14. Many brokers, known as registrars, offer multiyear deals for up to 10

years; Network Solutions, formerly owned by VeriSign, offers a 100-year package.

VeriSign runs the Domain Name System computers that keep track of all the '.com' and '.net' names in use. Computers from around the world check them continually to find out how to reach '.com' and '.net' Web sites and pass along e-mail.



The Mountain View, Calif.-based company said the fee increases, the first since 1999, stem from a need to keep up with growing online use as well as threats from hackers.

"Over the last six years, VeriSign has dealt with two phenomenons when it came to the infrastructure," VeriSign spokesman Tom Galvin said.

He said VeriSign's DNS computers now get 30 billion queries a day, compared with 1 billion in 2000, while security exploits have grown eightfold over that period.

In February, the company announced Project Titan, an initiative to expand the capacity of its systems tenfold by 2010 to 4 trillion queries a day. The extra capacity is needed to respond to any unusual surges from legitimate demand, as well as to overcome any denial-of-service attacks, in which hackers try to overwhelm the systems with fake traffic.

The price hike does not require any regulatory approval.

VeriSign also runs the computers that list all 266 domain name suffixes, such as '.fr' for France and '.biz' for businesses. Fees for other domains aren't going up, but VeriSign could use the '.com' and '.net' revenue to subsidize upgrades.



**AIR WASH**  
Employee for Japanese electronics giant Sanyo, Yumiko Teramoto, displays the company's new washing machine 'Aqua AWD-AQ2000', which has the world's first function "Air Wash" to disinfect and deodorize through using air (ozone) instead of water, for leather, silk and temperature-sensitive materials, during a preview at the company's Tokyo office on March 3. Sanyo will put it on the market from March 20 with a price of USD 2,250.

PHOTO: AFP