

TECHFOCUS

Big Bang's foray into health care sector

EDWARD APURBA SINGHA

IT'S a success story of some enthusiastic young programmers who have built up their own platform for creativity called Big Bang. Don't be in a dilemma with the name because it is only a software firm than anything cosmological.

Since its inception, Big Bang has gradually marched on with limited resources; now its products are being used in many hospitals and diagnostic centres across the country.

"We started our operation without any financial support from banks and we've systematically overcome all the setbacks through innovative business tactics", Arif Ahmed, managing director, Big Bang Computer's Ltd, told the StarTech.

The humble look of this software firm does not give the impression of being any high-tech business. But its good track record and unwavering commitment to duty are sure to convince you of its worth. This has helped the firm maintain a good client profile sans marketing hype.

Big Bang chiefly focuses on hospital and diagnostic MIS solutions. A developing country, Bangladesh needs the widespread implementation of IT in its health care sector in a bid to boost health care services and ensure a sustainable socio-economic development as well.

It is disquieting that in many cases we largely depend on foreign companies for the software solution. This status quo has prevented many of our native software firms from coming in the limelight though they have the talent necessary to generate high-quality products.

Bangladesh is a densely populated country and at this moment a robust health care system is a must in order to ensure medical services for all. Although hospitals and diagnostic centres have mushroomed in the urban areas, quality assurance is still a far cry. But people have the right to full information about their health queries.

In the age of the internet, anyone can instantly collect information from any geographical location. If a person, for example, needs to contact a doctor they can do so through the website. Similarly, in an emergency finding a blood donor is just a few clicks away.

Hospitals, clinics and diagnostic centres can develop a database where profiles of patients will be stored in a permanent arrangement. As a result, nobody will have to bother with prescriptions, diag-

nostic reports and other stuff in order to explain their medical history. They can instead use a smart card containing data, which will also be available on the database of the hospitals, clinics and diagnostic centres. In addition, IT also ensures transparency and

direct clients though many a well-known hospitals and diagnostic centres are currently using its software. It should also be mentioned that the company does not develop any disease analysis software or solutions that might assist doctors in identifying the

running in 50 diagnostic centres. Hospital MIS or Hospital Management Information System is being utilised for financial management, accounts management, marketing, information about doctors and patients, lab reporting system and inventory information

sound knowledge in these two areas. Very soon the firm will switch to fully online solution with a view to providing more upgrades to its clients.

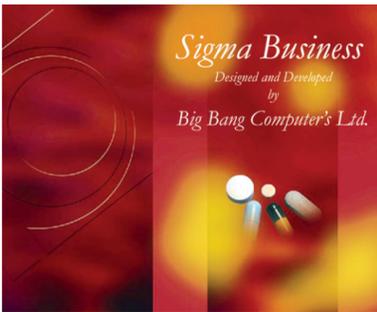
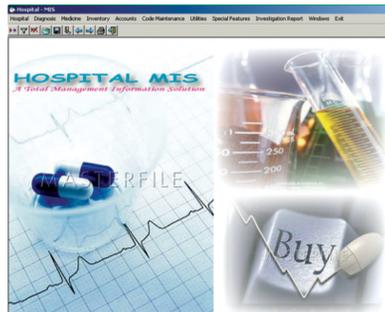
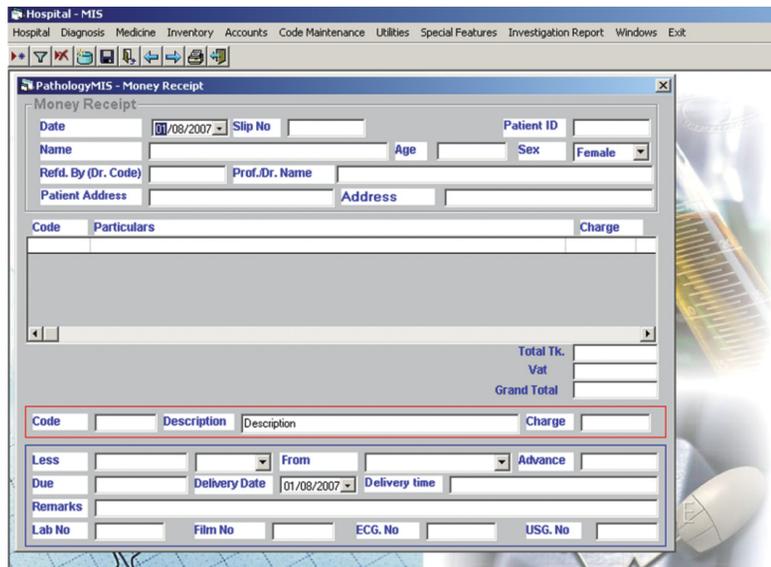
Based on the client's demand, Big Bang needs nearly a year to develop any software. During this period clients can opt for any customisation they deem suitable for their operations. Dedicated programmers at Big Bang are always ready to give post-development support to their clients.

Aside from hospital and diagnostic MIS, Big Bang has also developed general-purpose software such as Accounts Management, Human Resource Management, Construction MIS and Sigma Business Ver-III for several companies.

Construction MIS is a multi-purpose application program based on SQL Server and deals with inventory, sales and purchase management. One can easily track project- and building-related material consumption, costing, receipt and payment, sales information, reports/statements to run a business smoothly. Advanced Development Technologies Ltd and Nagar Homes Ltd are presently using this software.

Sigma Business Ver-I is an Access-based application for small- and mid-scale business. This product is based on sales, inventory, purchase, accounts and market monitoring for trade. Sigma Business Ver-II is targeted for manufacturing and trading-related businesses. This product is convenient for those who run their businesses with the help of MR and commission agents. This is a multi-purpose application based on SQL Server. This software enables anyone to easily track their inventory of both raw materials and finished products and also get depot-wise information as per demand.

Siddique Hossain, chairman, Big Bang Computer's Ltd, disclosed his future plan to StarTech. He said, "IT is a vital tool that can ensure transparency and reduce corruption. These unique contributions of IT inspire me to engage in such a challenging business". He added that "we are hopeful about integrating all segments of the society through IT in order to create a true IT environment in the



underlying cause of a disease.

Big Bang is mainly working on business software solutions for hospitals and diagnostic centres. It has so far developed a string of software, such as Diagnostic MIS (Access-based) and Hospital MIS (SQL-based). Diagnostic MIS or Diagnostic Management Information System is being utilised for financial management, accounts management and lab reporting system. This software is currently

running in 45 hospitals. Another solution from Big Bang is Prescription Management. Through this software a doctor can prepare and print prescription and keep a record of the patients. Medics can also breeze through the previous history of a patient while preparing the prescription.

Programmers at Big Bang are well versed in Visual Basic and SQL Server. If anyone plans to work for the firm, they must have

PHOTOTECH



BOT FRENZY
South Korean children look at toy robots at a state-run show room in Seoul on July 31. South Korea is writing a code of ethics for robots for the first time in the world as part of efforts to lift the robot industry. The charter will be released by the end of this year in preparation for a society in which humans and robots live together.

PHOTO: AFP

Netscape Navigator

Netscape Navigator, also known as Netscape, was a proprietary web browser that was popular during the 1990s. Once the flagship product of Netscape Communications Corporation and the dominant browser in usage share, its user base had almost completely evaporated by 2002, partly due to the inclusion of Microsoft's Internet Explorer web browser with the Windows operating system, but also due to lack of significant innovation after the late 1990s. However it was confirmed on 1 May 2007 the Netscape Navigator name would once again be re-generated in the next release of Netscape's browser, Netscape Navigator 9.



TECHVIEWS

Apple shines its core computer line



Apple CEO Steve Jobs shows off the new wireless keyboard as he introduces new versions of the iMac and iLife applications in Cupertino, California.

AFP, Cupertino

APPLE on Tuesday unveiled a new line of iMac computers and sleek software hoping the glow of iPod MP3 players and iPhones will help shine Apple's core products.

Apple chief executive Steve Jobs, in his trademark blue jeans and black shirt, demonstrated the offerings to reporters and analysts at the company's headquarters in the Silicon Valley city of Cupertino.

"The iMac has a tremendous amount of momentum," Jobs

said. "We'd like to make it better."

Apple is replacing its white plastic iMacs with more powerful, slimmer aluminum-and-glass machines for either the same price or less than their predecessors, depending on the models.

Apple calls iMac the "all-in-one" desktop because the hardware, now driven by Intel Core 2 Duo processors, is built into screens equipped with web cameras and microphones.

The largest-screen iMac measure 24 inches (61-centimeter) diagonally and cost

1,799 dollars, while the lowest-priced, 20-inch (51-centimeter) models sell for 1,199 dollars.

Environmental groups have criticised Apple for not doing more to eliminate electronic waste, and Jobs pointed to the new iMac's recyclable aluminum-and-glass components.

"It's really been thought through from a recycling point of view," he said.

Jobs showed upgrades and innovations packed into Apple iLife software for organising and editing digital movies, pictures or music.

Apple also launched a "Web Gallery" where people can easily share videos and images online using its programs. The software also lets people use Google's AdSense to profit from online advertising on blogs or other personal websites.

Apple introduced spreadsheet software called "Numbers" to make its computers more attractive to businesses.

"The overriding message here is, there is an Apple ecosystem," said Jupiter Research analyst Michael Gartenberg.

"It's not just iPods and iPhones. Sometimes people forget that Apple still makes great computers too."

TECHNEWS

A new portal for real estate business

IF you are planning to buy, sell or rent a property or an office space, you may consider myrealestatebd.com. This website will give you plenty of opportunities to accomplish your mission. It allows you to post property advertisements with corresponding images and directly contact the buyer or seller free of cost.

The portal has incorporated a unique feature called 'Email Alert Service' through which you may get email notification as soon as property news posted on the site matches your requirements. It is worth mentioning that this site maintains a huge database from which you can glean the right information using a dynamic search engine. News published on daily newspapers are also uploaded regularly to



this site. This portal accommodates a good number of registered members who are frequently posting ads for purchases, sales, rent or sublet of their properties. Besides these facilities, a client can find information about real estate companies, building

material manufactures and retailers, building loan, procedure for and tax rate on buying a property.

StarTech Desk

Tech Jargon III

A very warm welcome to my faithful readers...ahem...well, if there are any. Don't know how many actually read my series, but if I can make a difference to even a few people's confidence level by helping them feel like they can at least nod their way through a hi-tech conversation, I don't think I'm doing that bad a job.

For those readers who have just started reading, welcome aboard! My mission here is to help you understand certain computer-related terms along with a dash of humor.

Today let's talk about some of the annoying aspects of technology...spam, bugs and viruses!!!

Spam: Here is a very irritating issue. Spam refers to bulk commercial e-mails posted to your inbox for advertising. That's right, they're those annoying emails advertising the beauty products, webcams...what not... "Buy our new innovative foot massager! Tried and tested for guaranteed comfort!". These spam mails usually tend to take up a lot of space in your inbox, and sometimes it may so happen that when your

friend tries to send you an urgent mail, your inbox will be too full to accept the mail.

The good news, however, is that there are special programs called antispams that can help you filter out spam from your email. Using this program, you can either block out spam or complain about it. (Spam is even illegal in some



places). Most email services provide antispam facilities. However, be careful, these software can sometimes treat genuine email as spam too and block it.

Trojan: A program similar to a virus, which is disguised as something harmless like a game, but when launched, it can actually sabotage your computer. This world is a cruel place!!!

Bug: Error, especially in a program that has been missed when they eventually found the bug, they thought of honoring the bug itself by making it a legend in the computer world.

Hacker: A person who uses computers to access (hack) systems that they are not supposed to have access to, like bank accounts, military secrets, or even private files of regular people. The world is full of these malicious antisocial elements!

Firewall: A program running on your computer that is dedicated to preventing hackers, spammers and similar undesirables from taking over your PC. A firewall is absolutely essential if you have an always-on internet connection.

Nahid Akhter