



E-mail

Electronic mail, often abbreviated to e-mail, email, or simply mail, is a store-and-forward method of writing, sending, receiving and saving messages over electronic communication systems. The term "e-mail" applies to the Internet e-mail system based on the Simple Mail Transfer Protocol, to network systems based on other protocols and to various mainframe, minicomputer, or intranet systems allowing users within one organisation to send messages to each other in support of workgroup collaboration. E-mail started in 1965 as a way for multiple users of a time-sharing mainframe computer to communicate.



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TECH FOCUS

Cybercrime

A looming threat

MD KAMRUZZAMAN FEROSE

THE rise of computers and advances in technology have paved the way for the genesis of a new genre of crime. High-tech crime involves an attempt to pursue illegal activities through the use of advanced electronic media.

The concept of cyber crime is not radically different from the concept of conventional crime. The first cyber crimes occurred in India, Japan and China at 1820. That is not surprising considering the fact that the abacus, which is thought to be the earliest form of a computer, has been around since 3500 B.C. in India, Japan and China.

Cyber crimes may include unauthorised access to data, illegal interception of data being transmitted, unauthorised damage, deletion, deterioration, alteration or suppression of data, interference with the functioning of a computer system, misuse of devices, forgery and electronic fraud.

A recent survey showed that a new cybercrime is being registered every 10 seconds in Britain. Some crimes performed online even surpassed their equivalents in real world. In addition, experts believe that about 90 percent of cybercrimes stay unreported.

According to a study performed by Shirley McGuire, a specialist in psychology at the University of San Francisco, the majority of teenagers who hack and invade computer systems are doing it for fun rather than with the aim of causing harm. Shirley McGuire mentioned that quite often parents cannot understand what motivates teenage hackers.

Results of an anonymous experiment conducted by her on more than 4,800 students in San Diego were presented at the American Psychological Association conference. It says that 38 percent of teenagers were involved in software piracy. Eighteen percent of all youngsters confessed to entering and using the information stored on other PCs or websites. Thirteen percent of all the participants mentioned they made changes in computer systems or computer files.

Cyber crime is mostly a property-related crime; it has no direct contact with the victims and involves less visible and tangible kinds of property such as information, data and computer networks. Victims come to know about their losses way later after the actual commission of crimes. Profits from high-tech crimes are vast. Hackers are able to steal greater amounts with greater



comfort; a single act can victimise many people in many places all at once.

The cyber thugs find it easy to evade detection and prosecution. They can carry their illegal activities without any geographical limitations and can easily move on to a new target.

Cyber crimes can be divided into the following three categories. 1. **Cyber crimes against a person:** Cyber crimes committed against people include various crimes like transmission of child-pornography and harassment through e-mail. The trafficking, distribution, posting, and dissemination of obscene material including pornography constitutes one of the most important cyber crimes known today. Cyber harassment is a distinct cyber crime. Harassment can be sexual, racial, religious, or other. This also brings us to another related area--violation of citizen which is a crime of grave nature.

2. **Cyber crimes against property:** The second category includes computer vandalism (destruction of others' property) and transmission of harmful programs. A Mumbai-based

startup engineering company became a victim of this kind of crime when a competing company stole the technical database from their computers with the help of a corporate cyber-spy.

3. **Cyber crimes against the government:** Cyber terrorism is one distinct kind of crime in this category. The growth of internet has shown that the medium of cyberspace is being used by individuals and groups to threaten international governments and terrorise citizens of a country. This crime manifests itself into terrorism when an individual "cracks" into a government or military website. In a report of expressindia.com, it was stated that the internet is becoming a boon for the terrorist organisations.

To prevent the above crimes, steps should be taken to prevent them immediately.

Cyber crimes pose a special problem to law enforcement agencies for two reasons. First, these crimes are not easily detected since the offenders can quietly commit them from any

computer terminal, usually from the comfort of their own homes. Second, most law enforcement agencies are not equipped to deal with these problems due to lack of technical know-how.

Compared to other countries in the world, internet technology has come to Bangladesh quite late. But, the country does not lag behind when it comes to cyber crimes.

The police have recently planned to set up a special unit to curb cyber crimes. The matter has become more urgent since an e-mail message was sent to Bangla daily Prothom Alo, issuing a life threat to the then leader of the Opposition and Awami League President Sheikh Hasina on August 23, 2004.

Another mail was sent to the police headquarters on Aug 25, threatening the then prime minister Khaleda Zia, her son Tarique Rahman and BNP lawmakers. The police took the mails seriously and decided to set up a cyber crime control unit, which will be the country's first policing unit against cyber crime. Two young men, a private university

student and a software engineer, were arrested in connection with the e-mail threatening Khaleda and another youth for threatening Hasina. The first two have reportedly said that they had sent the mail for fun. As there is no nationwide computer infrastructure, no watchdog or security system has yet been developed in Bangladesh.

To address the problem, it is essential to push through a stringent law. And, after a long wait, many discussions and criticism, the Information Technology Act, 2006 was passed in parliament. IT specialists think it is possible to take effective measures against cyber crimes, including pornography, by properly enforcing this law.

Under the law, an offender is liable to long-term imprisonment and huge fine. But, not a single case could be filed yet under this law. The law enforcement agencies, however, have launched some activities in this regard and they are hopeful of doing some good jobs pretty soon. According to the National Security Intelligence (NSI), measures are being taken to keep watch on cyber cafés and internet-related activities. So, it has become necessary to formulate proper laws against internet crime as soon as possible and provide proper training to law enforcers to fight such crimes.

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TECH NEWS

Robo-relationships are virtually assured: British experts

AFP, London

DAVID McGoran cradles his baby in his arms. As he looks down into its big, dark eyes, it turns its head towards him and blinks, looking contented as it curls a bony white finger around his hand.

But the "baby" is not human. And it looks more like Gollum from "The Lord Of The Rings" wearing a hemp romper suit, than a gurgling infant.

Meet Heart Robot, a flexible, plastic puppet with robotic features that has been programmed to react to sound, touch and nearby movements.

Heart Robot, so called because its red "heart" is visible on the left side of its body and beats at different rates, is certainly getting more attention than its menacing-looking counterpart, iC Hexapod, nearby.

The six-legged creature, which looks like a giant mechanical tarantula, flexes its spiny metal limbs as a miniature camera where the spider's head would be scrutinises the face of a young girl staring at it curiously.

On a television screen next to iC Hexapod, the girl gets a live, robot's eye view of what the machine is seeing, shifting its head in response to her movement and recoiling if she gets too close.

Both Heart Robot and iC Hexapod are "emobots" -- robots programmed to react to human emotions -- on display this week at the Antenna Gallery at London's Science Museum.

For McGoran and iC Hexapod's inventor, Matt Denton,

creating robots that recognise and respond to basic human emotions is a logical step as people's daily lives become increasingly dependent on technology.

"People know about artificial intelligence but the perception is that robots are cold and calculating industrial automatons," McGoran, who is studying robotics at the University of the West of Eng-

land, told AFP. "One day, perhaps in the not too distant future, he predicts, humankind's relationship to machines could be transformed if they are programmed to respond to prompts like vocal tension or facial expressions."

Denton agrees. "forget how easy it is for us to be drawn in," said McGoran, from Vancouver, Canada, whose background is in puppetry and dance.



A 'Heart Robot' is seen here with content developer Holly Cave.

land, told AFP. "But over the last decade, there has been a new field where robots have become the opposite of that."

The reaction to Heart Robot is similar to that of cinema audiences to the star of Pixar's new animated film WALL-E, about a cute, ET-like robot looking for love as it clears up the mess of human civilisation on a deserted Earth.

"We're emotional machines. We can't help it. We

He runs micromagic systems, an animatronics firm based in Winchester, southern England, and has worked on blockbuster films like "Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire" and music videos for trip-hop band Massive Attack.

He developed iC Hexapod with face recognition software that is already available and being used in some closed-circuit television systems, as well as for car number plate recognition.

Nokia introduces N78

STARTECH DESK

NOKIA has introduced Nokia N78, new member of the Nseries family. It's especially designed for sharing music and images. Nokia N78 was actually introduced at Mobile World Congress 2008 in Barcelona, Spain. The product is available in Bangladesh from June this year.

Keeping music a core feature of the device, it also has expandable memory of up to 8GB, internal speakers and support for 3.5mm headphones. The N78 also has Internet Radio. Users can instantly access to thousands of internet radio stations. It has 24 hours of music playback time.

The Nokia N78 has wide



range technologies, including integrated A-GPS with free Nokia Maps (digital

maps of cities), WLAN and high-speed HSPDA 3G connectivity, 3.2 megapixel camera with Carl Zeiss optics and support for microSD memory card, currently available at up to 8GB.

Its interesting feature is the FM transmitter that allows music to be played on any FM radio, in car or home.

Jonas Geust, supervisor of the Nokia's Nseries devices said, "The Nokia N78 truly lives up to the Nseries promise of delivering unparalleled mobile multimedia experiences with the very latest technologies and services."

The sleek design Nokia N78 costs Tk 27,500. Nokia lovers will certainly enjoy using the new member of Nseries.

PHOTO TECH



MEET THE G-DOG

A boy uses a radio controller to instruct a dog-shaped robot called "G-Dog" to kick a ball during a summer holiday event for children in Tokyo on July 26, 2008. Radio-controlled model car maker HIP Japan will put the toy robot, jointly developed with electric parts maker Futaba Corporation, on the market this summer.

PHOTO AFP

TECH NEWS

VPN-firewall router SL1200



STARTECH DESK

THE ASUS SL1200 VPN Security Router possesses all the advanced functionalities of an Enterprise-grade Firewall, NAT router and VPN (up to 50 Tunnels).

The Routers offer the highest performance with unprecedented throughput rate of 80Mbps for VPN, 100Mbps for Firewall, and 90Mbps for NAT, says a press release.

In addition, the SL1200 also supports Virtual DMZ, Intrusion Detection and Protection, Stateful Packet Inspection Firewall, and URL filtering. These features let the small and medium enterprise gain considerable security for their Network. The product has a price-tag of Taka 10,000/-.

Bdjobs.com campus career festival begins

STARTECH DESK

BDJOBS.COM, the largest job portal of the country, has organised the first ever campus career festival in the country. The festival is being held at six leading public and private University campuses over two months (July and August 2008).

The Universities are - Dhaka University, Jahangirnagar University, North South University, Brac University, United International University and East West University.

At each of the campuses 2-day long event will take place. The first event of the festival was held at North South University Campus on July 25 and 26, 2008. This will be followed by events at other campuses (August 6 - 7 at Jahangirnagar University, August 13 - 14 at Brac University, August 18 - 19 at United International University, and August 27 - 28 at East West University).

A total of 20 reputed organisations in

the country are going to take part at the festival with job offers in different positions. Face-to-Face interviews will be organised during the events. It is expected that over one hundred new job appointments will be provided by the participating



organisations to the fresh graduates during the two-month long event. Apart from the job announcement and interviews by the employers, seminars and workshops on different career related topics will also be arranged during the events.