

IT & TELECOM

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ANDROID

Shifting phones to a new gear

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Last week one of my friends showed me his new smartphone with a lot of excitement, which he bought recently. He waited long for his new phone that runs on Android, the most talked about smartphone and tablet operating system at the moment from Google. Once I got hands on experience on the features and advantages, especially the apps, it was clear to me that there was no reason for him not to get excited.

His smartphone gave him relief from the boring task of synchronising his phone with his PC on a regular basis to backup the contacts, thanks to his new phone OS that automatically syncs contacts with his Gmail account.

That's not all! The phone syncs with Facebook too. He showed me that the phone's calendar informs him of the Facebook events date by date. He doesn't have to log on to Facebook to know what's happening. All he does is keeps the phone synced with Gmail and Facebook accounts.

He showed me the latest app that he downloaded from the Android Market, the application store for Android. It is called Google Goggles. It can identify pictures taken with your mobile phone to search the web. He said there's no need to type or speak query, all you have to do is open the app, snap a picture, and wait for the search results. He showed me how it works. The app is an interesting one. The app works fine with pictures of books, DVDs, landmarks, barcodes, logos, contact info, artwork, businesses, products, or text. He is now waiting for it to work with the pictures of animals, plants, cars and more.

There were some fun and useful apps he showed to me. For example, the app "Where is my Android", my friend said, helps you find your phone when the ringer is turned off or on vibrate mode. It even turns on the GPS of the phone and sends you the link of it's location on Google Maps.

You can use any phone to text your secret attention word to your phone to turn on the ringer and play your current ringtone. The app

also gives you the phone's GPS coordinates of the phone with a separate attention word. My friend is yet to use the app as he is too careful to lose his precious phone.

He passes most of his leisure time with the phone nowadays with so many apps to play with.

Google's Android-based

Wind River Systems.

Its flagship OS/software, Android, is based on open source licence and developed to compete against the mobile platforms from Apple, Microsoft, Nokia, Sony Ericsson, HP and Research In Motion.

Based on modified version of Linux kernel, Android operating

The Motorola Xoom tablet is the first device featuring Honeycomb version that went on sale in February this year.

The upcoming version of Android is Ice Cream Sandwich, a combination of Gingerbread and Honeycomb into a "cohesive whole". It is expected to be released in the mid-2011 and Jellybean, which will come out next year.

It has a large community of developers for developing applications (apps) that extend the devices' functionality. Apps are available in the Android Market which is run by Google. Market comes preinstalled on most Android devices and allows users to browse and download apps published by third-party developers.

Currently there are over 200,000 paid and free apps in different categories available for Android with an estimated over 3.5 billion downloads.

The Android Market was announced in August 2008 and was made available to users in October 2008.

In February this year, the market was made fully accessible on the web, allowing users to browse and pick up applications using their PCs, send them to their mobile phone and make comments on them. All this functionality was previously accessible only from mobile phone devices.

Apps can also be downloaded from third-party sites. Apps are primarily written in the Java language, controlling the device via Google-developed Java libraries.

Growing success of the Market had a hiccup recently though. In March 2011, Google pulled 58 malicious apps from the market, but by that time apps were already downloaded to around 260,000 devices. The malware (DroidDream) exploited a bug, which was present in versions of Android older than 2.2.2. But shortly, Google remotely wiped the apps from infected users and rolled out an update that would undo the exploits that allowed the apps to view information. They also announced that they would be resolving the issue to ensure that events like this do not happen again.

Reference: Wikipedia



smartphones have come long way since its inception in 2008. At that time hardly anyone would believe it could even compete with the Apple's iPhone, let alone win the battle.

After two years or so, Android is not only competing but also seemingly taking over the smartphone market.

Android's success lies in its Open Handset Alliance (OHA) strategy. Established in 2007 the alliance includes Google, HTC, Sony, Dell, Intel, Motorola, Qualcomm, Texas Instruments, Samsung, LG, T-Mobile, Nvidia, and

system has become the best-selling smartphone platform.

Apart from cell phones Android is used for netbooks and tablets, including the Dell Streak, Samsung Galaxy Tab, TV and other devices.

Android has seen a number of updates since its release. These updates typically focus on fixing bugs as well as adding new features. Generally each new version of the Android is developed under a code name based on a dessert item.

The most recent released Android versions include: 2.0/2.1 Éclair, 2.2 Froyo, 2.3 Gingerbread and 3.0 Honeycomb.

Osama story shows changing media nature



AP, New York

A soldier in Afghanistan learned about the death of Osama bin Laden on Facebook. A TV producer in South Carolina got a tip from comedian Kathy Griffin on Twitter. A blues musician in Denver received an email alert from The New York Times. And a Kansas woman found out as she absently scrolled through the Internet on her smartphone while walking her dog.

In an illustration of how the information world has changed, many people learned through media formats or devices that weren't available a decade ago that the mastermind of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks had been killed.

"It just kind of spread like wildfire online," said Stephen Vujevica, a student at Immaculata University in Pennsylvania. "It's amazing to see how social media played a part in it."

Vujevica was at his girlfriend's house and both were on their laptops, when she said that many of her friends had updated their Facebook status to note bin Laden's death in Pakistan. He went to Google News to find out that President Barack Obama had scheduled an address to the nation. He searched other sites to get news and credited Twitter with giving him the most immediate information.

A soldier who identified himself only as Carlos from Queens called New York sports radio station WFAN Monday to note that he and his buddies in Afghanistan learned the news not from commanding officers, but from Facebook. Angie Scharnhorst of Overland Park, Kan., had an early morning plane flight and if she wasn't carrying her smartphone while walking her dog Ruby at 2 a.m. CT, said she probably wouldn't have heard the news until later in the day Monday.

Ashlee Edwards, a content producer for the CBS affiliate WBTW-TV in Myrtle Beach, S.C., was watching "The Tudors" with a friend when she saw Griffin's tweet urging her to "turn on CNN now"

because the president was about to make an announcement.

It was before 10 p.m. ET Sunday that many Washington-based reporters were told to get to work because the president would speak. They were not told why.

Mainstream news organizations began reporting that bin Laden was dead about 15 or 20 minutes later. Some, such as CNN and NBC, were tentative at first. Others, including ABC, were more definitive. Fox News Channel was joyful.

The speed of social media struck some as an epochal moment in news coverage. "If anyone isn't a believer in Twitter as an amazingly powerful news vehicle, last night should convert you," tweeted Chris Cillizza of the political website The Fix.

Twitter said that it saw its highest sustained rate of tweets. There was an average of 3,440 tweets-per-second from 10:45 p.m. - 12:30 a.m. EST, according to the site. At 11 p.m. EST, there were 5,106 tweets-per-second.

Parody outraced news. Even before CBS had reported bin Laden's death, a tweet came from Eric Stangel, co-head writer on David Letterman's "Late Show": "Report: President Obama to announce Osama bin Laden is dead. I won't believe it until I see the death certificate."

Internet traffic surged above normal Sunday night usage. Akamai Technologies Inc., which delivers about 20 percent of the world's Internet traffic, said that global page views for the roughly 100 news portals for which it delivers content peaked at more than 4.1 million page views around 11 p.m. ET. CNN, Fox News Channel and MSNBC had nearly 15 million viewers between 11 p.m. and midnight Sunday when Obama spoke, led by CNN's 7.8 million. That time on a typical Sunday, the three networks are pulling in 1.7 million viewers, according to the Nielsen Co.

It's no longer unusual these days for social media to reflect the first stirrings of a story, said Mark Kraham, chairman of the Radio Television Digital News Association and news director for WHAG-TV in Hagerstown, Md. Yet Kraham said that conventional media showed care and proper caution in reporting the story through. People would have been offended or hurt if news organizations had reported a story of this magnitude and it turned out to be false, he said.

If social media outlets were quick on the story, many posts were quick to point followers to mainstream news organizations, or to pass on links such as Griffin's advice to turn on CNN.

Huawei introduces Cloud-Pipe-Device strategy

IT, TELECOM DESK

Huawei, a world leading telecom solutions provider, recently shared its vision for the telecommunications industry over the next 10 years and its strategy to capture the opportunities presented by these trends at its Eighth Annual Global Analyst Summit, says a press release.

With the increasing convergence of Information Technology (IT) and Communications Technology (CT), Huawei has put in place a three-pronged strategy of "Cloud-Pipe-Device" to provide comprehensive solutions to telecommunications carriers, enterprises and customers, to expand the horizons of telecommunications industry and to contribute to the development and rise of the Information Communications Technology (ICT) industry.

Richard Yu, chief marketing officer of Huawei said, "Globalization has truly taken down all borders and a wholly-digitised society has come to the forefront where applications of telecoms are at the core not just for communications, but across all industries. This trend presents significant opportunities for Huawei and the telecommunications industry as a whole."

To meet the challenges of this new era, Huawei has developed cloud computing solutions and constructed its "Smart Device, Simple World" strategy with a view to provide a fully-integrated end-to-end ICT solution that focuses on the three components of cloud computing, network, and device.

Experts warn of bin Laden malware scams



AFP, Washington

Computer security experts warned that online scammers have already started to exploit the death of al-Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden to spread malware. "Watch out for the links you're likely to come across in email or on social networking sites offering you additional coverage of this newsworthy event," Paul Ducklin of computer security firm Sophos said in a blog post. "Many of the links you see will be perfectly legitimate links," Ducklin said. "But at least some are almost certain to be dodgy links, deliberately distributed to trick you into hostile Internet territory."

By late Monday, researchers at US computer security firm McAfee were seeing email messages as well as updates at social network Facebook and microblogging service Twitter baited with promises of pictures or news of bin Laden.

"I suppose this was just inevitable," David Marcus of McAfee said in an online message.

"The reported death of Osama bin Laden is just too good a lure for cybercriminals and scammers to pass up."

Cyber crooks were using "expected lures" in messages to dupe people into clicking on links booby-trapped with

malicious software designed to steal data from or take control of infected computers, according to Marcus. Ploys included a bogus promise of a look at a video debunking reports of his killing by showing the 9/11 mastermind holding up a newspaper with today's date, McAfee reported. Another trick was to promise graphic pictures of bin Laden's corpse. Mike Lennon of SecurityWeek said cybercriminals "typically use very attractive headlines to encourage users to click links and direct them to malware infected Web pages."

"Links are already beginning to spread across Facebook, similar to what happened following news of the recent earthquake in Japan," Lennon said. "Users should be cautious of spam containing links to photos, videos and other information that sounds remarkably interesting on bin Laden's death."

"Users also need to be cautious of tweets through Twitter, and Facebook posts, as cybercriminals gear up to attract unsuspecting traffic to spread malware," he continued. Cybercriminals frequently use high-profile news events in a bid to entrap unsuspecting victims.

ASUS brings new notebook and motherboard



IT, TELECOM DESK

ASUS, a world leading computer hardware and accessories manufacturer has introduced its latest notebook- ASUS K42Jy and ASUS P5G41C-M LX motherboard in the local market, says a press release.

The notebook K42Jy comes with a 14" display powered by a dedicated ATI graphics card with DDR3 1024MB of VRAM. It said to be the world's first to be equipped with a 14" high definition display. The K42Jy is powered by 2.66 GHz Intel Core i5 processor. The product has a price tag of Tk 55,500.

The motherboard from ASUS supports Intel LGA775 Core 2 Extreme / Core2 Quad / Core2 Duo processors with 1333/1066/ 800 MHz FSBs and features Intel G41 chipset with DDR3 or DDR2 dual channel memory for higher bandwidth requirements for the latest OS, 3D graphics, multi-media and internet applications. The motherboard has a price tag of Tk 4,300.

Habib's new album

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ভুলে যেও না	5445	ও মিঠা মেয়ে	54410
চোখে চোখে	5446	তুমি যে আমার সিকন্দা	54411
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