



## UBCL brings Hitachi Interactive WhiteBoard

IT & TELECOM DESK

Unique Business System Limited (UBSL), the local distributor of Hitachi products in Bangladesh, has introduced Hitachi's new Interactive WhiteBoard in the local market, says a press release.

This board is equipped with the latest technology and very user friendly. Interactive whiteboards helps learning in several ways, including raising the level of student engagement in a classroom, motivating students and promoting enthusiasm for learning. Interactive whiteboards support many different learning styles and are used in a variety of learning environments, including those catering to students with hearing and visual impairments.

Research also indicates that notes taken on an interactive whiteboard can play a key role in the student review process, leading to higher levels of student attendance. In addition to the observed positive impacts on student learning, research shows that designing lessons around interactive whiteboards helps educators streamline their preparation, be more efficient in their information and communication technology (ICT) integration and increase their productivity overall.



## Smartphones wallets going mainstream

AFP, San Francisco

Using smartphones or tablets as digital "wallets" will be common within a decade, largely replacing cash and credit cards, according to a Pew Research survey released on Tuesday.

Sixty-five percent of "technology stakeholders and critics" who responded to an opt-in poll by Pew Research and Elon University Imagining the Internet Center agreed that handheld gadgets would be a mainstream way to pay by the year 2020.

"The 2020 date might be a bit optimistic, but I'm sure that this will happen," Google chief economist Hal Varian was quoted as saying in a survey response.

"What is in your wallet now? Identification, payment, and personal items," he continued. "All this

will easily fit in your mobile device and will inevitably do so."

Google last year launched a "Wallet" service that lets sophisticated Android-powered mobile phones be used to "tap and pay" for purchases at shops.

Many of the 1,021 people surveyed said that security and convenience would be among the factors prompting people to shift to using smartphones or tablets as de facto credit cards or cash.

Some who were optimistic about the future of smartphone wallets expected the trend to be slowed by privacy fears, lack of infrastructure, and resistance by credit card companies and other entities profiting on the current system.

"The driver here will virtually 100 percent be whether or not the credit card industry decides it can make more money through changing tech-

nologies," the survey quoted Microsoft principal researcher Jonathan Grudin as saying.

Almost none of the people surveyed expected cash or credit cards to disappear completely, according to Pew.

"Due to concerns about the technology, resistance by incumbent providers and the generally slow nature of societal change, there is a fairly consistent feeling among these experts that mobile payments will exist on a spectrum along with a number of other financial options," study co-author Aaron Smith of Pew Research.

"Indeed, some expect these services to most quickly reach widespread adoption in the developing world, due to its lack of an incumbent banking sector and ingrained consumer habits."

## Three 'flavours' for Microsoft's Windows 8 OS

BBC ONLINE

Microsoft's next operating system will come in just three different flavours, the company has announced.

For those with Intel-compatible machines, the OS will be available in two versions - Windows 8 and Windows 8 Pro.

And for those with devices, largely tablets, powered by ARM-designed chips there will be a Windows RT version.

Microsoft wants to simplify how it markets Windows 8, which is expected to launch in autumn 2012.

The complex flavours of past Windows - from basic to home, premium to ultimate - have become something of a joke among tech experts.

Microsoft has called Windows 8 the most significant redesign of the Windows interface since its groundbreaking Windows 95 OS.

The ARM version of the OS is the newest edition and reflects Microsoft's desire to unify the engine known for running desktop computers with that for tablets and smartphones. Windows RT will sit alongside Apple's iOS and Google's Android operating systems.

It announced the new flavours on its Windows blog.

Many of those reacting to the announcement were unimpressed by the name for its ARM version.

"You guys are doing a phenomenal job with Windows Phone, Windows 8, etc, which makes the naming of 'Windows RT' all the more maddening. You're trying to simplify the rest of the 'Windows Live' properties, which I applaud, but then you go with Windows RT? Does not compute," said Michael Jenke, summing up the views of many responses to the blog.

In an earlier 8,600-plus word blog post Windows president Steven Sinofsky detailed the "energising and daunting" challenges in developing Windows on ARM.

A preview version of Windows 8 launched late last year and more than 100,000 changes had been made since the developer version

went public.

For the first time since its inception, the trademark Windows "Start" button will no longer appear - instead being replaced by a sliding panel-based menu.

In a footnote in its blog, Microsoft said that there would be an adapted version of Windows 8 Pro for businesses.



## Photography contest by Qubee

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Qubee, a leading 4G internet service provider of the country, has organised a photography competition on the occasion of Bangla New Year 1419.

Qubee announced the competition styled "Qubee Boishakhi Clickbaaz Contest" on social media platform.

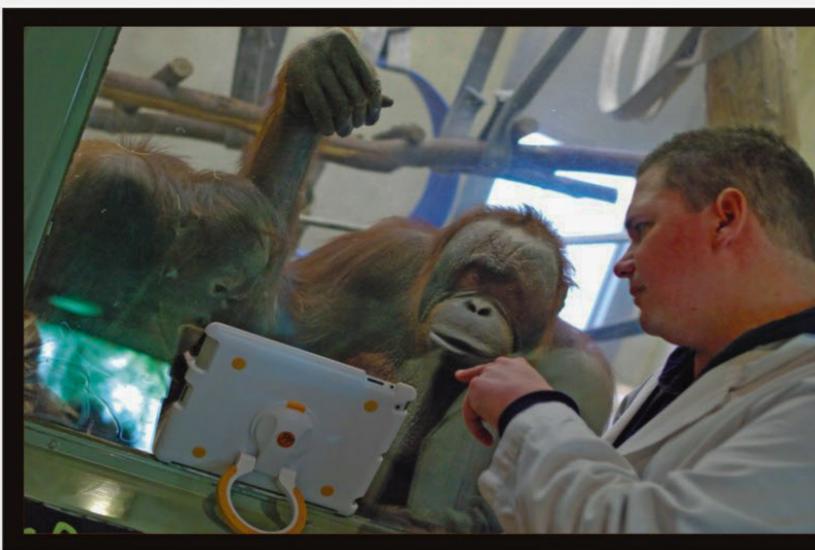
Winners of the contest will get gifts that include Apple Macbook Air and iPhone 4 as 1st prize; iPad 2 and iPhone 4 as 2nd prize; and iPad 2 with Qubee pocket Mi-Fi as 3rd prize.

The competition started on April 13 and will end today. Anyone can upload their photos on Qubee facebook

(www.facebook.com/Qubee eZone). Participation is open for all to share their best 1419 'Pohela Boishakh' photos.

Top 100 pictures will be judged by expert panel. Then these pictures will go into the final round-pictures will be put on facebook album for 10 days.

Top 3 winners will be selected based on numbers of 'likes' they receive in 10 days and points given by the judge panel.



TECHPHOTO

## Playdates for primates

Orangutans MJ (L) and her adoptive son Mahal (C) watch a video on an iPad held up to the glass of their enclosure by volunteer Scott Engel at the Milwaukee County Zoo. Zoo keepers have been using iPads as enrichment tools for nearly a year now and is retrofitting their building with wifi so the playful primates can soon have 'playdates' with orangutans at other zoos using livestreaming video applications like FaceTime.

PHOTO: AFP

## GPIT to sponsor local Microsoft Imagine Cup 2012

IT & TELECOM DESK

GPIT has signed a partnership with Microsoft Bangladesh to become sponsor of Microsoft Imagine Cup. Under the partnership, GPIT will be sponsoring the local Imagine Cup event. GPIT will also contribute the ticket for the champion team in Bangladesh to attend the worldwide finals in Sydney, Australia to represent Bangladesh and also cooperate to arrange the national finale event.

Microsoft Imagine Cup is the world's premier student technology competition which has been held every year for almost a decade. Over the years, the Imagine Cup has grown to be a truly global competition focused on finding solutions to

real-world problems. Since 2003, over 1.4 million students have participated in the Imagine Cup with 358,000 students representing 183 countries and regions registering for the Imagine Cup 2012 competition.

Peter Anthony Dindial, chief executive officer, Birgit Holtskog, head of marketing, Asaduzzaman Sheikh, specialist, Mehedi Hasan Maruf, senior executive, brand from GPIT and from Microsoft Bangladesh K.M. Imran-Al-Amin, head of public sector, Atiqur Rahman, head of business development, Muhammed Asif, head of enterprise sales, Omi Azad, developer evangelist were present at the agreement signing programme.



## Samsung Galaxy Y Duos hits Bangladesh

IT & TELECOM DESK

Samsung has brought its dual SIM smartphone, Galaxy Y Duos, to Bangladesh for new smartphone users.

The compact yet full featured smartphone is designed for trendy and sociable youths and young professionals.

This phone has all the bells and whistles of Galaxy smartphone series with Dual SIM Always on support.

Dual SIM Always On allows users to receive calls from 2 SIM cards simultaneously with its forwarding option.

The slim-bodied Galaxy Y Duos has 3.14" large full touch screen.

Equipped with Android 2.3 (Gingerbread), Y Duos lets you navigate through easy-to-use native smartphone applications.

Google Mobile Service delivers a wealth of everyday handy services such as Voice Search, Play Store, YouTube and numerous Google services including Google Maps and Gmail. Communication tools like Social Hub for IM via Facebook or Google Talk, easy sync with Facebook and Twitter, free 'Chat on' service will meet the diverse demands of current and potential smartphone users.

Its 832 MHz processor provides efficient performance. It comes with free 2GB microSD card for better memory capacity, built-in WiFi, Bluetooth 3.0, 3MP camera and 1300 mAh battery.

The Samsung Galaxy Y Duos has a price tag of Tk 16,500.



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