

'MindMeld' app anticipates people's needs

AFP, San Francisco

A voice calls application called MindMeld to be available this month promises to know what iPad users want before they do.

The application, named for the way the character Spock melded minds with other beings in hit classic science fiction television series "Star Trek," analyzes conversations in real-time to anticipate speakers' desires.

"It is the first voice and video calling app for iPad that can actually understand what you say and find relevant information so that you have it at your fingertips," Expect co-founder Timothy Tuttle told AFP.

"This stuff seems like science fiction but it can happen fairly well today and five to 10 years from now it will be standard in just about every phone call or real-time communication application."

Calls made using MindMeld are routed through Expect technology that recognizes what people say and finds online information that might be relevant to conversations.

"At any point in a conversation when you hear something interesting you can pull in more information" on the iPad screen, Tuttle said.

"A lot of complex things are taking place on the back end to be able to predict from the last 10 minutes of a conversation what you need in the next ten seconds."

For example if a friend on a call suggests a new restaurant, MindMeld readies a map and information such as the menu or reviews.

Mentioning a medical treatment could trigger news stories about the treatment, while talk of a vacation could prompt online video of mentioned venues along with insights from Facebook friends.

Oracle's new product for telcos

IT & TELECOM DESK

Oracle recently announced the availability of the Oracle Communications Elastic Charging Engine, a 100 per cent real-time rating and balance management engine.

It is designed using patent-pending technology to process high-volume, next-generation communications services with unprecedented performance and efficiency.

The engine can process more than three billion events per hour on a single Oracle Exalogic Elastic Cloud system.

At this level of performance, the Oracle Communications Elastic Charging Engine is capable of rating and charging every phone call made in the world each day in real-time.

Oracle Communications Elastic Charging Engine is built on Oracle Coherence a leading, in-memory data grid solution enabling distributed computation, parallel transactions, and event processing. Oracle's solution enables CSPs to dynamically scale charging capacity by distributing processing and data across multiple processors for very high-volume and complex communications services.

Red Herring Top 100 Asia Award 2012

Local VAS company among Asia's best

IT & TELECOM DESK

VU Mobile, a leading mobile VAS (value added service) company in Bangladesh, has been selected as a winner of prestigious Red Herring Top 100 Asia Award 2012.

Red Herring, an online technology business magazine, announced its Top 100 Award in recognition of the leading private technology companies from across Asia.

The event was held on September 10-12 in Hong Kong.

Red Herring's top 100 Asia list has become a benchmark for identifying promising new companies and entrepreneurs.

Red Herring was among the first to recognise the companies like Facebook, Twitter, Google, Yahoo, Skype, YouTube and eBay who would change way of people's life.

It also holds top 100 US award and top 100 Europe award.

Top 100 are selected from thousands of companies.

Red Herring's editorial team evaluates the companies on both quantitative and qualitative criteria such as financial performance, technology innovation, management quality, strategy and market penetration during the selection process of top 100.

This assessment of potential is complemented by a review of the track record and standing of startups relative to their peers, allowing Red Herring to see past the buzz and make the list a valuable instrument of discovery and advocacy for the most promising new business models in Asia.

VU Mobile won the award in mobile sector. Kaymun Amin, CEO, VU Mobile received the award.

The other sectors of the award include

internet/online, marketing/ advertising/SOE, Software, entertainment & media, clean tech, professional services, cloud computing, mobile, big data/storage, computers/technology, social media, medical devices, hardware, security, consumer electronics, consulting & services, telecommunications.

In a phone interview, Kaymun Amin said VU Mobile started its operation in 2005.



Kaymun Amin

"The company is working with all the six mobile carriers Grameenphone, Robi, Banglalink, Citycell, Airtel and Teletalk," he said.

Among others, VU Mobile's services include Shabbox, text infotainment services and Club Z, a WAP subscription service.

Shabbox is a daily subscription infotainment service where a user can subscribe to any text service of choice by registration.

This service charges Tk 2 per content after first free content.

Club Z is a premium WAP content subscription service.

It offers 2 Free WAP downloads for a weekly subscription charge of Tk 15.

Subscriber also gets a free content during registration.

ClubZ subscribers can choose their two free weekly downloads from a list of various contents including wallpaper, animation, polytone, MP3, video clips, games and more.

The Shabbox and Club Z services fall under the D2C (direct to customer) category.

They also have B2B (business to business) services, which include Grameenphonegame Store with Grameenphone, My Choice with Robi and STK (SIM Toolkit Menu) with Airtel.

When asked about future plans, he said they are planning for 3G networked based services, which will include more enriched multimedia services.

He also said they are working on Android and HTML 5 based applications and mobile marketing service (a business solution), which they are offering to corporate houses.

VU Mobile will be introducing various apps in partnership with smartphone and tablet vendors soon.

Amin observed that despite VAS industry's huge potential, it lacks sufficient talented people. He said lack of awareness is the reason for this.

He said more bright-minds should come to this industry to make it grow.

"We are the leading MVAS company in Bangladesh as per revenue and subscriber reach and have been awarded with the "Best Revenue Performer 2010" by Grameenphone," said Amin.



Mobile phones getting less toxic

AFP, Washington

Mobile phone manufacturers, responding to consumer and regulatory pressure, are using fewer toxic substances in their products, researchers in the United States said Wednesday.

The Motorola Citrus, Apple iPhone 4S and LE Remarq emerged as the least toxic cell phones in a study of 36 different models that have come onto the market during the past five years, the Michigan-based Ecology Center said.

The newly released iPhone 5 ranked fifth, and its arch rival Samsung Galaxy S III ninth, while the iPhone 2G -- the first in the top-selling smartphone series, released in 2007 -- was found to contain the most toxic materials.

"The takeaway is that mobile phones are chemically intensive, and full of chemical hazards, but they've been getting a lot better," Jeff Gearhart, research director at the Ecology Center, told AFP in a telephone interview.

In a statement, the Ecology Center explained that "every phone sampled in this study contained at least one of following hazardous chemicals: lead, bromine, chlorine, mercury and cadmium."

Such dangerous substances can pollute at any stage of a product's life cycle, from the moment they are extracted from the ground to the time a cellphone is assembled and the day it is thrown out, it said.

"Consumer interest in healthier products is driving companies to design and produce healthier products," said Gearhart, who also cited tougher controls in Europe and Asia over the hazardous materials used in consumer electronics.

Disney develops 3D-printed lighting for toys

BBC ONLINE

Disney is exploring the use of 3D printers to build new kinds of light features into objects.

The firm's researchers are working on a range of techniques including "light pipes" and tubes of enclosed air that can be made to glow in controlled ways.

They say that 3D printers can create objects with "micron accuracy" that would otherwise be more complicated and costly to build.

It paves the way for the firm to create new kinds of toys.

However, one expert suggested it might be some time before the innovation became cheap enough to use to create mass produced items.

A paper published by the entertainment giant's Pittsburgh labs details prototypes already created including a bug-like figure with glowing eyes that display different graphics; chess set pieces that use light to display information about their position on the board; and blocks of plastic that appear



to show explosions inside when light is shone at them.

"We envision a future world where interactive devices can be printed rather than assembled," wrote the team.

"A world where a device with active components is created as a single object, rather than a case enclosing circuit boards and individual assembled parts."

The engineers used computer software to make objects which included innovative lighting elements. They explained that creating the toys on 3D printers allowed them to create a real-world prototype within minutes, rather than having to wait for a factory to be retooled.

NEW DEVICES

Huawei's MediaPad

Huawei has started the shipment of its 10-inch Huawei MediaPad 10 FHD quad-core tablet to selected markets from last month.

It will be available in Bangladesh by June-July next year.

The MediaPad runs on Android 4.0 and has 10.1-inch 1920 x 1200 high definition IPS display screen and 16:10 golden ratio that provides optimal screen viewing for gaming and high definition video.

The MediaPad features an 8MP autofocus rear-facing camera that can record 1080P HD videos and a 1.3 megapixel front-facing camera.

The device is powered by a K3v2 Cortex-A9 1.4GHz quad-core processor and a 16-core GPU. The MediaPad 10 FHD LTE version supports the world's fastest mobile wireless data connection at up to 150Mbps LTE (compatible with 84Mbps HSPA+), in addition to Wi-Fi and 3G versions. Its 6600mAh battery provides more than 10 hours of continuous use.

The HUAWEI MediaPad 10 FHD's sleek aluminum-alloy body measures 8.8mm thin and weighs only 580g.



Fujitsu Lifebook

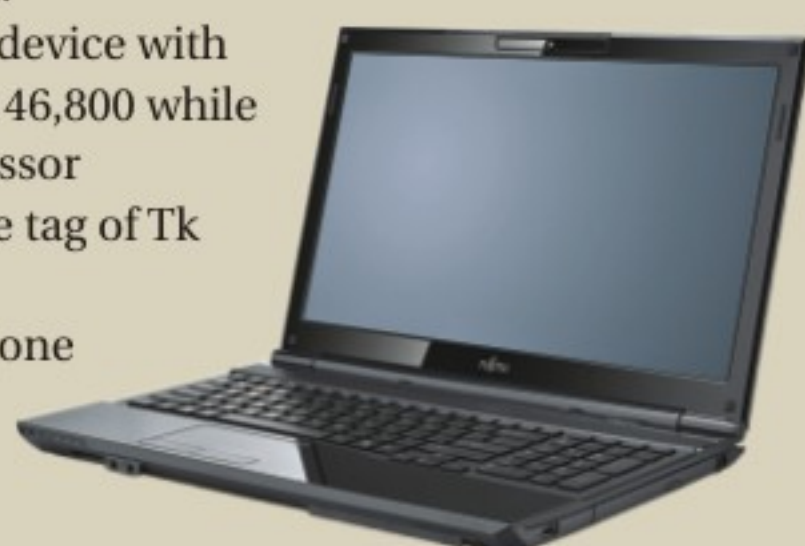
Computer Source Limited (CSL) has introduced a new model of Fujitsu's Lifebook LH532 in the local market.

The Lifebook is equipped with 2GB DDR 3 RAM, 500GB HDD. With 14-inch display, the Lifebook features Bluetooth 4.0 and USB 3.0 and 720p HD webcam.

Its battery can serve up to 4.5 hours. The device comes in three different colours - black, red and lavender. The Lifebooks are available with both core i3 and dual core processor.

The price of the device with core i3 processor is 46,800 while the dual core processor Lifebook has a price tag of Tk 37,900.

Both come with one year warranty and Fujitsu carrying case.



Acer's Aspire V3-471

Acer has released its Aspire V3-471 laptop in the local market. The laptop is equipped with 3rd generation Intel Core i3-3110M processor (2.40GHz, 3MB cache).

It also comes with the Intel HD Graphics 3000 with 128 MB of dedicated system memory for better visual performance. The laptop has 14-inch HD Acer CineCrystal LED backlit display, 2GB RAM and 500 GB HDD with card reader, webcam, DVD writer, Wi-Fi, 1x USB 3.0 and 2x USB 2.0 ports, HDMI port, Dolby Audio. It has a battery life of up to 4.5 hours.

The laptop weighs 2.3kg and comes in black colour.

The Aspire V3-471 is available at Tk 46,800 with one year local and international traveler's warranty.

