

Google Maps makes its way back to the iPhone



REUTERS

Google's navigation tool has returned to the iPhone, months after Apple's home-grown mapping service flopped, prompting user complaints, the firing of an executive and a public apology from Apple's CEO.

The Google Maps app will be compatible with any iPhone or iPod Touch that runs iOS 5.1 or higher, the company said in a blog post. (link.reuters.com/jek64t)

Apple launched its own service in early September, and dropped Google Maps, when it launched the iPhone 5 and rolled out iOS 6, an upgrade to its mobile software platform.

Users complained that Apple's new map service, based on Dutch navigation equipment and digital map maker TomTom's data, contained errors and lacked features that made Google Maps popular.

In October, Scott Forstall, a long-time lieutenant of late Apple co-founder Steve Jobs, was asked to leave the company partly because of his refusal to take responsibility for the mishandling of the mapping software.

While Apple Maps offered soaring 'flyover' views of major cities, it had no public transit directions, limited traffic information, and obvious mistakes such as putting one city in the middle of the ocean.

This led to Apple chief executive Tim Cook apologizing to customers frustrated with the service and, in an unusual move for the U.S. consumer group, directed them to rival services such as Google's Maps instead.

Freelancing: freedom and money

IMRUL KAYES CHOWDHURY

His life has changed in three years.

Three years ago he worked in several private organisations.

He did not have enough money to buy a laptop.

Now his average monthly earning is USD \$3000-\$5000.

Ali Asgar, a Bangladeshi freelancer said these in an interview with The Daily Star.

Nowadays freelancing has become a prime source of income for many people across the globe, in Bangladesh too.

There are so many people who are doing remarkably well in this freelancing field.

Asgar said one day he was browsing the internet he came to know about several freelancing websites where he found various types of job that he was interested in.

"That inspired me to become a freelancer," said Asgar.

He instantly registered at freelancer.com. However, he got his first job through the site after a year. During this one year he just placed bids for job. "I never lost confidence and hope," said Asgar.

His first job was to have at least 500 facebook fans for a US company. And it was a USD \$30 project. He won the project competing with 17 bids from several countries.

With 2219 feedbacks and 100% reputa-



Ali Asgar

tion, he is now leading Bangladesh at freelancer.com. He is one of the top 3 successful users of site.

Most of Asgar's freelance jobs are social networking and internet marketing.

Asgar said although he works for companies across the globe his maximum clients are from US.

He said there are many freelancing site which are known as marketplace, among those Freelancer, Get A Coder, Elance, oDesk, 99 designs, Guru, Fiverr, Project 4 Hire, People Per Hour, Freelance Switch, Go Freelance, iFreelance, Logo My Way, All Freelance Work, Programmer Meet Designer are popular.

Asgar's favorite is freelancer.com

He said freelancing is not as easy as it sounds. It is a challenging job. "To get a project you have to place your bid, convince your client, maintain quality and deliver the project in time to keep good record to get future project."

On payment methods he said there are several options for withdrawing money which include Payoneer Debit Card, Moneybookers or wire transfer.

"We (freelancers) are waiting for another important payment method-Paypal. I hope our government will take initiative in this regard soon."

Asgar said there are few institutions in Bangladesh like BASIS, Creative IT and DevsTeam to help the freelancers.

"Unemployment is a huge problem in our country. If unemployed people start working as freelancers, they will be contributing to not only themselves but also to the country. And I believe all of us have skills to become a successful freelancer."

He said to be successful in this field one should have goal, honesty, commitment to clients, punctuality. One should also work hard, maintain quality of work and according to him the most important thing is to go by the rules and regulations of the marketplace.

Facebook unveils new privacy controls



REUTERS, San Francisco

Facebook Inc began rolling out a variety of new privacy controls on Wednesday, the company's latest effort to address user concerns about who can see their personal information on the world's largest social network.

New tools introduced on Wednesday will make it easier for Facebook's members to quickly determine who can view the photos, comments and other information about them that appears on different parts of the website, and to request that any objectionable photos they're featured in be removed.

A new privacy "shortcut" in the top-right hand corner of the website provides quick access to key controls such as allowing users to manage who can contact them and to block specific people.

The new controls are the latest changes to Facebook's privacy settings, which have been criticized in the past for being too confusing.

Facebook Director of Product Sam Lessin said the changes were designed to increase users' comfort level on the social network, which has roughly one billion users.

"When users don't understand the concepts and controls and hit surprises, they don't build the confidence they need," said Lessin.

Facebook, Google Inc and other online companies have faced increasing scrutiny and enforcement from privacy regulators as consumers entrust ever-increasing amounts of information about their personal lives to Web services.

In April, Facebook settled privacy charges with the US Federal Trade Commission that it had deceived consumers and forced them to share more personal information than they intended. Under the settlement, Facebook is required to get user consent for certain changes to its privacy settings and is subject to 20 years of independent audits.

Facebook's Lessin said some users don't understand that the information they post on their Timeline profile page is not the only personal information about them that may be viewable by others. Improvements to Facebook's so-called Activity Log will make it easier for users to see at a glance all the information that involves them across the social network.

Facebook also said it is changing the way that third-party apps, such as games and music players, get permission to access user data. An app must now provide separate requests to create a personalized service based on a user's personal information and to post automated messages to the Facebook newsfeed on behalf of a user - previously users agreed to both conditions by approving a single request.

The revamped controls follow proposed changes that Facebook has made to its privacy policy and terms of service.



Raphael Pirker from Switzerland, founder of Team BlackSheep uses virtual reality goggles to simulate the sensation of flight in the real world during a demonstration, flying from the perspective of a model aircraft, during a session of LeWeb'12 in Saint-Denis, near Paris on December 6, 2012.

PHOTO: AFP

REVE Systems receives Red Herring top 100 award

IT & TELECOM DESK

REVE Systems, a leading VoIP software solutions provider in Bangladesh has received the prestigious 2012 Red Herring's Top 100 Global Award, says a press release.

Red Herring, an international media organisation, announced its Top 100 award at an event in Los Angeles, US on November 27-29.

Every year Red Herring organises the event in recognition of the leading private companies from regional competitions in Europe, North America, and Asia. Red Herring Global has become a mark of distinction for the most promising young companies from around the world.

Alex Vieux, publisher and CEO of Red Herring said after rigorous contemplation and discussion, they narrowed the list down from hundreds of candidates

from across globe to the top 100 winners. The companies were evaluated by Red Herring's editorial staff on qualitative and quantitative grounds such as technology innovation, management quality, financial performance, strategy, and market penetration.

On receiving this award, REVE Systems CEO M Rezaul Hassan said, "2012 Red Herring's Top 100 Global Award is a big achievement for us, which motivates us to adhere to our commitment of bringing innovation in the IP communication industry."

REVE Systems offers a complete range of mobile VoIP platform, Softswitch-Billing and other software applications. Currently, the company is serving 1700 service providers across 70 countries. REVE Systems has its head office in Singapore and other offices in Bangladesh, India, UK and USA.



REVE Systems CEO M Rezaul Hassan and Director Monnujan Nargis receive the award.

NEW PRODUCTS

Asus' all-in-one PC series

IT & TELECOM DESK

Asus has introduced its ET2013 series of all-in-one PCs in the local market.

The Asus All-in-One PC ET2013 series is powered by the Intel Pentium dual core 2.9 GHz processor for responsive multitasking performance and energy efficiency. The 20" 16:9 HD+ LED backlighting gives crystal-clear images on screen while helping to reduce power consumption.

Its ultra-slim space-saving design makes easy to setup and use. The PC comes with 2GB DDR-3 RAM, 500GB Hard Disk, Intel HD graphics, built-in speakers, Wi-Fi (802.11b/g/n), Gigabit LAN, Webcam, 2 USB 3.0 ports, 3 USB 2.0 ports, USB keyboard and mouse.

The PC has a price tag of Tk 47,000.



LG's new monitor

IT & TELECOM DESK

LG has introduced Green IT certified E1942C 18.5-inch LED monitor in the local market.

The monitor combines an LED screen, high contrast ratio and high resolution to create a quality viewing experience for all your computing tasks.

It features a 5,000,000:1 dynamic contrast ratio and 1366 x 768 resolutions, producing lifelike, vivid colour and dark blacks. It also features a 5ms response time for smooth video playback.

It is also energy efficient and saves up to 30% energy compared to conventional LED monitors. The product has a price tag of Tk 7,600.