DELL
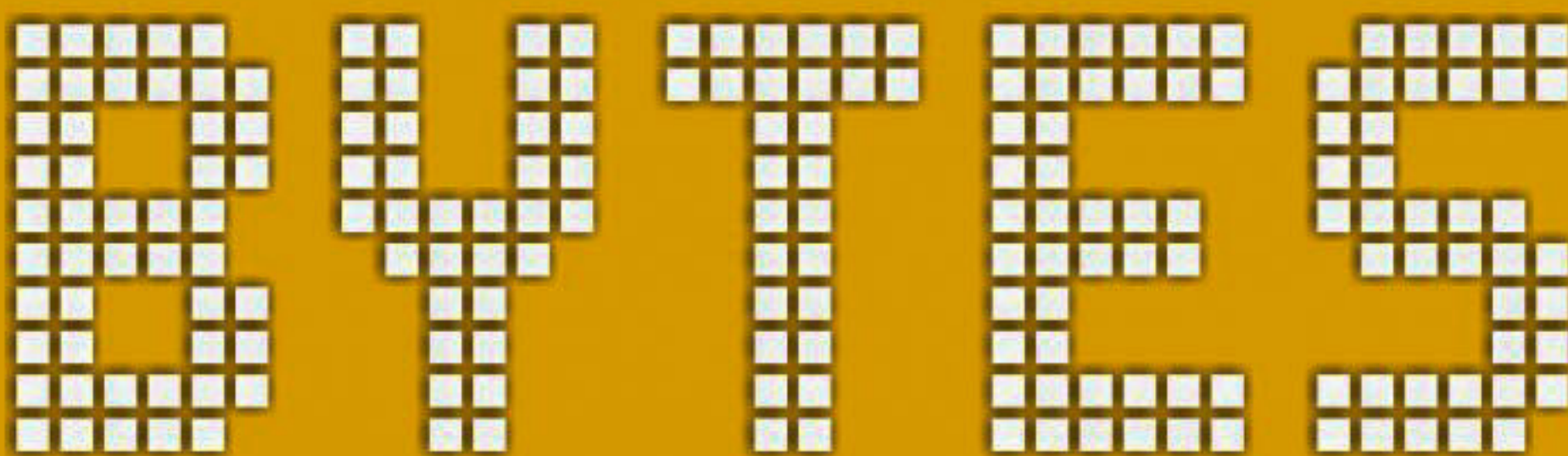The power to do more

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DIY
Android Modding 101

Ever wonder why Android is so popular? If you ask this question to 10 people and 9 of them will answer that it's because of the cost, or magnitude of choice or the abundance of apps. The remaining 1 person will probably answer with the fact that the prospect of modifying android is so vast, it's hard to pass up.

Well, sure those 9 didn't exactly answer wrong, but to me, that last answer was the sole reason I ended up with Android. Due to the very nature of Android being open-source means that the developer community is constantly coming up with goodies that can enhance and even lengthen the lifecycle of your device. Now many people confuse android modding with jail breaking and claim it's the same thing but that's like comparing a Corolla with a BMW M5. Jail breaking only gives you very limited freedom and the ability to use cracked apps. In the Android camp however, modding opens up the world to do, quite literally, anything. From enhancing performance, to lengthening battery life, to changing the feel of the phone to even changing the stock OS to aftermarket OS. Once you delve into it, you will always wonder how you ever went on without it.

Now, most people think that modding Android is as complicated as sending a man on Mars, but I assure you it's not. The 1st few parts are tricky yes, but once that's out of the way, it's so simple even a 5 year old could do it. To understand modding, we'll go over the 4 things it comprises of. We are covering two in this week's issue.

ROOTING

"Just root it" is something you've probably heard saying if you've spent any meaningful time hanging around a hardcore Android user. For a prospective modder, the first step on the path is always rooting. Now many people misunderstand rooting, so let's get this cleared out. Rooting DOES NOT give you new features. Rooting simply allows you to have access to the very innards of your phone's software. It also allows you the power to grant this access to any app that may require it.

Getting root access also opens the door to run other, more powerful apps. For example, the most complete backup app, Titanium Backup, needs root to function properly. Other apps, like the power-saving Greenify, also function better when they have complete control; and if you're on a phone plan that charges you extra for tethering your phone's data to your laptop, there are root apps that can get around that too.

Rooting also gives you an ability to streamline your OS a bit. Now you must be asking why you'd need to streamline or maybe even what I mean by streamline. All manufacturers fill their devices with their company software or carrier software. Honestly, in my experience, you don't need almost any of them, and those software do eat your resources and your battery whether you want to or not. The best way to get rid of them, is through rooting.

For many users looking to clean out this trash, or de-bloat as it is known, rooting is the best way to do so. For users looking for more, we need to move on to the next item on the list.

RECOVERY

Now this step is a bit short, but trust me, it's one of the most crucial and convenient steps towards a truly custom experience. A custom recovery is like the launching pad for the phone's OS. It's also where you can make a full backup of the phone (similar to Time Machine in OSX). If something messes up and you can't even get the phone to boot, usually you can still get back to the custom recovery and revert to one of your backups or even do a full factory reset. What recoveries are used for though is flashing custom OS or other goodies in the Android Mod community toy chest.

(To be continued)

S.M. INTISAB SHAHRIYAR

Bangladeshi Women at the Grace Hopper Celebration 2014

"Congratulations!"

Who does not like an email starting with that word, especially when it's from the scholarship board of the Grace Hopper Celebration (GHC)? Yes, this year I was part of the fortunate 26% of the scholarship applicants who were honored with a scholarship grant. This came as a big surprise to me since no undergraduate student from Bangladesh had ever been given this grant before.

For those of us who do not know what GHC is, The Grace Hopper Celebration of Women in Computing or GHC is a conference held every year with the purpose of bringing the research and career interests of women in computing to the forefront. It is presented by the Anita Borg Institute for Women and Technology and the Association for Computing Machinery. Attending GHC 2014 has inspired me greatly and changed my view in many ways. I am now more motivated to to pursue my dreams as a young computer scientist and I know that I can do it. I have seen that there are unlimited opportunities available in computer science.

I made my introduction to research with a technical poster presentation at GHC. The poster, titled "Transportation; Tracking and Preventing Accidents", was on a research I am currently conducting on the prevention of road accidents. It combines a basic stand alone object-detection method and a method involving vehicle-to-vehicle communication to predict and avoid collisions. Besides getting an International audience to present my research work to, I also received some great feedback that will take my research further.

I must say I was very nervous at first. As it was, although I had spent quite some time preparing the poster itself, I had next to no preparation for the presentation. I was far from happy with result of the couple of times I did get to practice presenting it. I had spoken to my peers and scribbled some advice in my notebook before attending the conference. However, while presenting at the conference none of it would register. I observed my audience and emphasized on the parts that caught their attention. But who knew that I could have my audience absorbed in what I had to say just like that! I marvelled at the response I received. Those

in academia told me how happy they would be to have me join them and take my research further. Others from the industry exchanged cards and asked me to visit their companies as they felt they might need someone like me onboard. I had never imagined that I would be presenting

my research work to people from prestigious institutions and companies and actually have them intrigued!

This year GHC opened its door to 8000 attendees all over the world. Attendees came from Nigeria, Tanzania, India, America, Sri Lanka, China, Uganda and many more. Talk about diversity! Interacting with so many different nations really changed my perspective. I made friends and learnt about the background, culture and stories of various countries. It was not just foreigners that I connected with. This year there were twenty eight attendees with Bangladeshi origins, the highest in its history. We scheduled to meet up and got to know each other. Contact information was exchanged to ensure our friendships lasted long after we left the conference.

These treasured connections are some of the best takeaways from GHC.

SAMIA SHAFIQUE

(The writer is a 3rd year student of CSE from BUET and the participant of Grace Hopper Celebration 2014)

KASPERSKY SECURITY UPDATE

WireLurker Apple malware targets Mac OS X then iOS

A new family of malware emerged yesterday called WireLurker, and it's capable of infecting devices running both Apple's mobile iOS platform as well as its desktop Mac OS X operating system. Palo Alto Networks, the security company that uncovered the threat, believes that WireLurker could usher in a new era of increased Apple malware.

For years experts have warned of a coming onslaught of malicious wares targeting Apple systems. In equally hyperbolic fashion, the Cupertino, California computer companies' more fervent fans have claimed their machines are immune to malware. The reality, as is so often the case, rests somewhere in the middle: Apple malware exists without a doubt but it is not as widespread as Windows and Android malware.

"WireLurker was used to trojanize 467 OS X applications in the Maiyadi App Store, a third-party Mac application store in China," Palo Alto Networks' researcher Claud Xiao said. "In the past six months, these 467 infected applications were downloaded over 356,104 times and may have impacted hundreds of thousands of users."

To be clear: this threat has only infected users in one popular, Chinese application marketplace, but that doesn't mean it can't spread elsewhere.

KASPERSKY lab THINK SECURITY

TECH HAPPENING

Online marketplace Kaymu celebrates 1st anniversary

As the country's leading online marketplace, Kaymu celebrates its first anniversary at Spectra Convention Centre in the capital. Kaymu is the largest and safest online marketplace for the emerging market. It connects buyers and sellers and allows them to take advantage of the best deals on an extensive range of products including electronics, books, fashion items, gadgets and even cars. Thanks to a fixed price system, Kaymu guarantees that users will always find the lowest prices in the market. Kaymu buyers and senior executives were present at the occasion.

Leica Geosystems held seminar on Leica Technology Updates

Swiss company Leica Geosystems held their first seminar in Bangladesh to showcase their world's best high end technology to government and private enterprises. The seminar named 'Leica Technology Update' was aimed primarily at the land survey community of Bangladesh and was recently organized by Leica Geosystem's local partner Celestial Tech at the Surma Hall of Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel. Seven Experts from Leica Geosystems presented papers on Geomatics, HDS(High Definition Survey), Construction Tools, Geospatial Solutions and Liscad Software, and demonstrated their latest products namely Total Station, RTK GNSS, Laser Scanners, Laser Distance Meter, Digital Level Machine and Airborne Cameras.

ISPAB protests the sudden removal of last mile overhead cables

Internet Service Providers Association of Bangladesh (ISPAB) yesterday arranged a press conference urging the governmentto stop removing the 'Last Mile Overhead (LMO)' cables. Mr. Imdadul Haque, the General Secretary of ISPAB, in his speech, mentioned that these LMOs are the cables connecting the Local Distribution Point (LDP, also known as POP) with the underground fiber optic cables. In order to remove the LMOs, every user needs to pull fiber optic cable to their home/institution; which is almost impossible considering the associated cost.

Mr. Syed Almas Kabir, Vice President of ISPAB, pointed out several suggestions to come out of the current situation. He said: 'We have several options open: we are more than willing to rent the poles of BTCL or DESCO or DPDC. We had a similar arrangement before. We can do it again. Government can lay underground ducts which COAB and ISPAB can jointly use for internet and Satellite cable networks.' He also suggested that if the government allows, ISPAB is willing to erect poles dedicated for broadband internet.

It must be mentioned that the Power Division of the Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources issued a notice for removal of all overhead cables within November 10, 2014. But the DESCO and DPDC officials started removing overhead cables before the stated date. Such removal caused severe internet service disruptions in Gulshan 2, Banani, Baridhara and other areas.

(Look out for further follow up)