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The Daily Star  
DHAKA, MONDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2014  
e-mail: bytes@thedailystar.net

INFORMATION

GADGETS

TECHNOLOGY



# 'DOT NGO'

# a new top level domain for the non profiteers

For those who don't understand: a top level domain is one of the domains at the highest level in the hierarchical Domain Name System of the Internet. Still not getting it? Simply put: anything you see after the last DOT of any web address is Top level domain or TLD. Worldwide there is only a handful TLD available. And Public Interest Registry (PIR), a US based entity, manages one of the one of most popular TLD: DOT.ORG. They are now promoting a new TLD that's going to hit the worldwide web this January: 'DOT NGO (and ONG)'. With the help of this TLD, PIR plans to bring all valid non government organizations (NGO) around the world. To raise awareness about this new top level domain- Mr. Brain Cute, CEO PIR and Mr. Osama Manzar, Cofounder & CEO Digital Empowerment Foundation came to Dhaka. In an interview with Shahriar Rahman from BYTES of The Daily Star they shared how hundreds of local NGOs can be benefitted from DOT NGO top level Domain.

with the DOT NGO websites are genuine NGOs.

**Shahriar: PIR is also looking for members for their NGO advisory council. Why is that?**  
**Cute:** It's actually because we are starting a new project. And it will be successful if the community is actively involved. So having an advisory council with representatives from the NGOs is another way for us to hear from the community. After we launch our services, how the community reacts to it, how we can best manage them etc are some important piece for the success of this project. So it's one way how we keep that element alive- by forming an advisory council.

**Shahriar: What will be the authentication and verification process?**

**Cute:** Basically its two steps. When you purchase the name you are going to be asked to certify yourself as an NGO. You will be presented with a statement with the definitional elements of an NGO and you have to certify saying that yes, I satisfy those elements. That would be step one. Step two will start after you buy the name. You will be directed to Public Interest Registry where we are going to ask few questions. Then we are going to check the source data to cross check whether you are a genuine NGO. The source data generally comes from the government and the NGO communities and forums. All of that is important because DOT NGO will be a trusted address.

**Shahriar: How suitable do you find the**



Osama Manzar

Brian Cute

**current ICT and financial scenario of Bangladesh for the DOT NGO project?**

**Cute:** We are working with the local partners here. So we do have very good idea how the market dynamics are. Access being a challenge, prices being important, end users awareness being critical- we are aware of these issues. That is why we are trying to put together a bundle of services and offer that at a reasonable price because after all we are working with NGOs. Digital Empowerment Foundation and local partners are working relentlessly to raise awareness of the grassroots users.

**Shahriar: The local partners that you mentioned, who are they?**

**Osama:** We are actively working with 'Bangladesh NGOs Network for Radio and Communications (BNNRC)' and 'dnet'. These local partners are helping us to spread the message to the NGOs, to physically meet them and train them. We are basically thinking how we can integrate all the NGOs of Bangladesh in to digital inclusion; in a broader term. We have been able to enlist 200 NGOs with PIR.

**Shahriar: That sort of supports are you looking for from government's end?**

**Osama:** We already spoke with the Information Minister about our project. He was delighted to hear the work that we are doing. He said that the government is willing to work with us. So we are looking forward to work with the government as well.

**Shahriar: Which specific services do you offer from DOT NGO?**

**Osama:** DOT NGO will provide NGOs website with a searchable global directory to improve visibility, raise fund and to connect with other NGOs. It also contributes to reduce online risks to the online community, such as spam and to collect donation safely through online payment systems from donors as well. Domain holders of DOT NGO will also communicate with partners, funders and the public, and be able to include links to their social media channels.

**Shahriar: So basically, PIR is going to put out a 'Facebook Page' for NGOs?**

**Cute:** (Laughing) Not really. It would be more than that. But I really appreciate the analogy.

**Shahriar: What are your plans for the future?**

**Cute:** In the near future, we will introduce some relevant apps in DOT NGO which will be helpful in taking decisions. We are talking with our community partners for their feedback. With time I think we will be able to add more features to this project.

INTERVIEWED BY SHAHRIAR RAHMAN

# Android Modding 101

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 are ready covered rooting and recovery. Last week we discussed two. Now rest of the two:

## Custom ROMS

It's very difficult to explain to the laymen the difference between a custom rom and stock rom, so I'll explain this in way I hope

most would understand. There are 2 kinds of Android OS's that you will find in the market: Stock Android that comes with the Nexus devices and OEM versions of Android like we would see in Samsung, HTC, LG, Sony etc. If we compare Android with cars, then stock android is just the chassis, engine, and steering rack. What other manufacturers such as Samsung, HTC, Sony, etc. do with this is fit the body, interior and every other component that's missing until they make the car whole.

So if that defines a Stock Rom, then the way to describe custom ROMS would be

modified cars

There are many kinds of custom ROMs but they can be classified under 2 sections:

● Stock firmware based custom ROMs: These ROMs are a modified version of the stock firmware that your device shipped with. Sometimes, they can also be based on an upcoming leaked firmware that some developer managed to get his hands on. These types of custom ROMs offer the most stability but only have a limited feature set. However, they do offer a great way to fix those minor niggles that you might have with the stock firmware and add just the right amount of enhancements.

● AOSP based custom ROMs: These ROMs are based on the Android Open Source Project (AOSP) and are almost always built on the latest version of Android. Since they are based on AOSP, they are devoid of any kind of OEM skin and look just like stock Android which translated to absolute fluidity in the operation of the OS. AOSP based ROMs are a great way of bringing the latest version of Android to devices that are more than capable enough of handling it. This means you are no



longer at the whim of the company as you can be on the latest Android version despite your device being not supported by the company anymore. They pack in many unique features like multi-window, Halo, PIE, DSP Manager and more. This should give you a good idea about what to expect in the features department from AOSP based ROMs. The downside to AOSP based ROMs is that due to the fact that it has to support such an enormous amount of devices, they can be a bit unstable or have one or the other hardware functionality broken, which might be a deal-breaker to many. The best thing about custom

ROMs though, is that they are all free and are made by developers who actively support these ROMs and provide updates and bug fixes if required.

## KERNELS

Basically, the kernel is the most important piece of most operating systems. It serves as the link between applications and the data processing that happens at a hardware level.

For Android phones the kernel has a lot of control over the handset's speed and battery life, as well as over how applications perform to some extent. Some kernels are built for speed, and

some are designed for battery longevity. When you hear about a phone being "overclocked," it's the kernel that is overclocking the processor.

Now, to be brutally honest, kernels are something you don't absolutely need to fiddle with unless you are a massive geek (guilty as charged) and you need to have control of every aspect of your phone and show off benchmark scores to your buddies.

That's all there is to it. Sure there are lots of other things that I haven't yet mentioned like flashing themes to change your phone's appearance and I mean proper themes, not the ones you download off Play Store for your launcher. There are also apps from other phones that you can run on yours and so much more that it can't really be tabulated. These things you need to see for yourself. Now that you know all the basics, head over to the android modding community sites such as XDA and spend some time there and before you know it, you'll be flashing and modding swearing your allegiance to Android for all eternity.

S.M. INTISAB SHAHRIYAR

## KASPERSKY SECURITY UPDATE

# 3 Security features in Apple OS X Yosemite

Apple OS X Yosemite (10.10) has arrived, and it's time to look at what it's going to offer us from a security point of view. Apple has actually set up a special page dedicated to security for OS X with a lengthy amount of text - there's a lot of it, but it's comprehensible and rather easy to read. Unfortunately, it doesn't say a lot about what features are new.

Most of the security tools involved are given specific names - Gatekeeper, FileVault, etc. It's a marketing approach but it also helps to explain which tool does what. So, let's look at them.

## Gatekeeper

It's an old feature (presented in OS X Mountain Lion 10.8) that protects a Mac from malware and "misbehaving apps downloaded from the internet." It's similar in its purpose and behavior to the Windows User Account Control (UAC). In a nutshell, Gatekeeper checks whether the app, downloaded from other places rather than the Mac App Store, has the proper Developer ID. If it does not, it will not launch, unless the settings are changed.

## FileVault 2

This security tool encrypts the entire drive on a Mac, protecting the data with XTS-AES 128 encryption. Apple says that the initial encryption is fast and unobtrusive. It can also encrypt any removable drive,



helping the user secure Time Machine backups or other external drives.

## Remote Wipe

This tool allows users to delete all of their personal data and restore their Mac's to the factory settings, if it has "changed the owner" without the user's consent. A milder option is to set a passcode lock remotely.

It doesn't, however, mean that it is an "absolutely" protected operating system - unfortunately, there are no such systems. Moreover, the number of threats targeting OS X, specifically, is growing as is the number of Mac users. This certainly has drawn the attention of criminals, who are looking into vulnerabilities and occasionally finding them.

## TECH HAPPENING

Brace yourselves, GEEKS

# Make-A-Thon is here!

The first ever Hardware Hackathon- 'Make-a-thon' will be starting from the 18th of November. This three daylong event is expect to attract tech enthusiasts, developers, makers, designers, crafters, educators, tinkers, hobbyists, engineers, science clubs, authors, artists, students, and commercial exhibitors. One of the interesting thing about this event is anyone irrespective of their background can participate. 'You need to be tech aficionado to participate in our event. We really don't care what you studied in.' said Mr. Minhaz Anwar, CEO

of Better Stories Asia and the host of the event. And the best part is: the winner will get the chance to represent Bangladesh at Makerfest 2015 in Ahmadabad, India. If you are really into hardware and gadgets them don't forget to register here: [www.bangladeshstartup.com](http://www.bangladeshstartup.com)



# e-Commerce Association Bangladesh (eCAB) meets the press

Press conference of e-Commerce Association of Bangladesh (e-CAB) took place recently at the V I P Lounge of National Press Club. Established to ensure the growth of the e-Commerce sector in Bangladesh e- CAB held this press conference to address some of the most pressing matters. The members of Advisory Council, Executive Committee and Standing Committee as well as owners and high officials of different e-Commerce companies and members of the print and electronic media were present there. N I Khan, Secretary of Ministry of Education was present at the press conference. He expressed his strong support towards the e-Commerce industry of the country.

# Microsoft boot camp held on "Azure" and "Office 365" in Dhaka

A day long boot camp held in Dhaka about two solutions: "Microsoft Azure" and "Office 365". Cloud-based "Microsoft Azure" solution user can get a virtual data center support without the physical set-up. For certain period of time and demand user can add and remove extra RAM, Processor, Storage for their particular need in online. Its uptime support is 99.9%. The boot camp was organized by Computer Source. This program was held in a conference center at Dhanmondi on last Wednesday. By participating in quiz, 6 persons got special prize and every participant received a gift.

Facebook will filter out excessively promotional Page posts in 2015



Ford, UPS and Visa want net neutrality, but they won't tell you that



Uber cars will soon stream passengers' Spotify playlists



US Navy puts its first laser weapon into service



First ever Conference of Bangladeshi Internet Professionals held

