



The power to do more

The Daily Star
DHAKA, MONDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2014
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BYTES



WORLD'S NO.1 ANTI VIRUS TECHNOLOGY

HANDS ON REVIEW

SYMPHONY XPLORER H50

Build: The metal body feels really good to hold in the hand. There is this groove that runs along the edges that sets it apart a little bit from the usual flat surfaces. It weighs around 150gm – thanks to the hunky metal.

Display
The Xplorer sports a 5-inch IPS HD display with GFF technology. The display is not Full HD but does get the job done. It is clear and bright but small lettering is not as crisp as we want it to be. The viewing angles are good thanks to the GFF technology. Outdoor visibility is above average at full brightness making it quite useful to read details on under bright sunlight.

Performance:
The performance of the phone is decent. Thanks to the quad core processor almost every app runs smooth and fine. It carries only one gig RAM and an average GFX processor so graphics intensive games are a big no. We tried playing Asphalt 8: Airborne. If Subway Surfer and Temple Run is your kind of hour-busting joy, then it's just the phone for you.

Camera: The 8MP primary camera can take pictures in some special modes/effects although it doesn't have HDR. The front 2MP snapper is good for outdoor selfies anytime of the day (except when it's pitch black out there). With the appropriate use of filters, it's a good device for instagramers.

Battery: The 2000mAh battery will last you a day provided you restrict your 3G activity. Just stick to Wi-Fi, voice call and music playing – you will be fine.

VERDICT

Symphony got the mission critical things right with the Xplorer H50. For the price tag it comes with, it has respectable features and solid hardware, but also it has room for improvements. With a more than average spec, you get to run all the essential apps and functions without stumbling. Though the primary camera take pictures that you might not brag about. But the right price makes it a strong offering in today's market.

SHAHRIAR RAHMAN



SPECS

OS: Android 4.4.2 KitKat
Display: 5.0 Inch IPS HD Display
Processor: 1.3 GHz Quad Core Processor
Camera: 8MP (AF) + 2MP(AF)
ROM: 8GB, RAM: 1GB RAM
Battery: 2000mAh
Sensors: G-sensor, Accelerometer Sensor, Light Sensor, Proximity Sensor, Magnetic

Price: Tk. 10,500/-

Google sees Bangladesh as a partner in making the world a global village- James McClure, Country Manager – Google S & SE Asia

"Google sees Bangladesh as a partner in making the world a global village" stated James McClure, Country Manager – Emerging Markets, S & SE Asia Google Singapore, on the occasion of unveiling Google Bus, which is a part of an educational outreach program. He also said that Google plans to do more activities for the youth of Bangladesh to introduce them to the amazing world of internet. He sat with Shahriar Rahman from BYTES to share some thoughts about the 'Google Bus' project and Google's plan with Bangladesh.

Shahriar: Does Google have any project similar to 'Google Bus' in any other country? What does Google plan to do next with this project?

James McClure: Yes, we had a Google Bus project few years back in India. But that project has some fundamental difference with the one we launched in Dhaka. Moreover the objective and outcome of the project will surely vary because Bangladesh and India have entirely different demographics.

When we are done with the project, we will have huge amount of numbers to crunch. We will analyze the data and then see which direction we can move forward in. Now the project is just at an initial stage. It's really hard to say what can be done in the future.

Shahriar: How far along is the Bangladesh Google Street View project?

James McClure: We came really far along. You probably remember, we came last year in February to launch the Google Street View project. In the last one year we covered most of the streets and places of Dhaka and Chittagong. Hopefully somewhere around March next year we will be able to launch the service for Bangladeshi people. But at this moment I cannot specify a date since there are many things we need to go through before launching the service.

Shahriar: Former Country Consultant to Google, Mr. Monirul Kabir, has left. Is Google planning to appoint someone to lead or consult the Bangladeshi operation of Google?

James McClure: Monirul Kabir actually left Google to pursue his academic interest. So currently we don't have any country consultant for Google. Whether there is any

plan in motion to appoint anyone – that I am afraid I am not aware of at this moment.

Shahriar: Google Business Groups are doing really well in Bangladesh. Is there any plan to expand these sorts of communities?

James McClure: Google Business Group or GBGs are some extraordinary platforms to engage the up and coming communities in emerging economies such as Bangladesh. And GBG Bangladesh are doing really well. They have won several accolades. Dhaka already has two GBGs. And I believe there are plans to open a GBG in Chittagong and Sylhet.

Shahriar: Bangladesh Government once banned YouTube. Google at that time said that it needed to set up an office or a server



for YouTube so that it can easily abide by the rules and regulation of the country. What is the update on that?

James McClure: Well, opening up an office or operation in a country is a huge undertaking. Besides investment, there are several structural and installation related issues. So currently we are not in a state to comment on that issue. But even though Google might not have an office in Dhaka, we do consider Bangladesh as a partner in making the world a global village. So we are working closely with the ICT Division of the government to engage the youths and students of this country by increasing the internet literacy.

SHAHRIAR RAHMAN

TECH HAPPENING

What Intel predicts for 2015

Intel recently held an event titled 'INTEL PREDICTIONS EVENT 2015' in Dhaka. The Predictions Event recapped key moments from 2014 and a look ahead at predictions for the coming year.



Zia Manzur, Country Business Manager for Intel in Bangladesh, presented a keynote speech highlighting that it has been another breakthrough year for Intel and the IT industry as a whole, with the Asia Pacific and Japan region being a major driver for significant change. With advancements in technology across all IT – from mobile devices and Internet of Things (IoT) to backend IT infrastructures – the rapid pace of innovation will continue into 2015. Intel is ushering into the age of integration, a time when technology and computational power will no longer be an adjunct to our daily lives, but an integral, immersive, and all-encompassing part.

800 freelancers trained to join online marketplace

Compared to men, women are doing significantly better in online marketplace. According to a research conducted recently, woman earns near about \$2 more compared to man- said ICT State Minister Zunaid Ahmed Palak. He was addressing a crowd of freelancers, dignitaries and press as chief guest in an event titled 'Women's achievements in outsourcing'. The event was hosted by technology skill training organization the Creative IT in association with Bangladesh Hi-Tech Park Authority at Sufia Kamal Auditorium at National Museum in the capital on Saturday.



EATL-Prothom Alo apps boot camp held

EATL-Prothom Alo Apps Contest 2015, one of the largest app boot camp, held this Saturday. This event brought 2000 participants under one roof at Mirpur Indoor Stadium for the training session.



Participants were able to learn about the growth and future of app industry, development of User Experience (UX) and User Interface (UI) and the life cycle of an app from the separate sessions. Google Android Team Lead also conducted a session to share his experience of this sector as a part of the Google team. The participants got to listen to Professor Muhammed Zafar Iqbal, Professor Mohammad Kaykobad, Professor Dr. Jamilur Reza Choudhury and Anisul Hoque. Mr. Zunaid Ahmed Palak, MP, State Minister, Ministry of ICT; and Mr. Matiur Rahman, editor of Prothom Alo were also present during the event. These renowned developers, industry experts, teachers and bureaucrats helped the participants to learn more about app making.

KASPERSKY SECURITY UPDATE

Is North Korea in some way behind the attack on Sony?

The popular opinion is that North Korea is behind the attacks. There's been a healthy amount of skepticism towards that position though – and with good reason. Threatpost and scores of other news outlets are following the U.S. Government's claim and reporting that North Korea is in fact "centrally involved" in the attack. Wired, on the other hand, is sticking to its guns, and continues to suggest that there is little evidence linking the Sony hack to North Korea. Wired cites the difficulty of attribution as well as statements from Sony and the FBI – who have both stated publicly that there is no evidence to link this attack to North Korea – as reasons for skepticism. It's hard to disagree with Wired. Why would a foreign government very publicly attack a



foreign corporation over an intentionally absurd movie? Some observers believe anger over "The Interview" is an excuse for North Korea to flex its cyber-muscle.

TECH HIGHLIGHTS

Researchers brainstorm about Software & Knowledge Management at SKIMA 2014

United International University last week (18-20 Dec' 14) hosted the 8th International Conference on Software, Knowledge, Information Management & Applications (SKIMA) in its premises. Researchers & experts from various continents gathered in this conference, which focuses mostly on Software & Knowledge Management, to present their papers, share ideas, experience and insights. Prof AK Azad Chowdhury, chairman of

University Grants Commission of Bangladesh was present as the chief guest during the inauguration ceremony. During the three-day conference, a series of invited talks were held as part of technical sessions. In the first day world-renowned scholars and researchers i.e. Dr. Andrés Gábor from Corvinus University of Budapest, Prof. Hongnian Yu from Bournemouth University, Prof. Dr. Alamgir Hossain from Anglia Ruskin University, Prof. Keshav Dahal from University of



the West of Scotland, Dr Nauman Aslam from Northumbria University, Dr. Chantal Cherifi from University of Lyon 2 on their keynote speech discussed about some of the ongoing research trends worldwide.

Near about 150+ paper were presented in the second and third day of the conference. Some of the exciting sessions in those two days were: multidisciplinary intelligent systems, network and wireless

communication systems, data mining and machine learning, Bangla computing, image processing and applications etc. NewsCred, the platinum sponsor of the event, conducted a two hour tutorial. Amongst all the papers presented, the paper titled 'Fuzzy Logic Based MPPT Approach in a Grid Connected Photovoltaic System' by Rajib Baran Roy, Dr. Md. Enamul Basher, Rojoba Yasmin and Md. Rokonzaman was awarded the 'Best Paper Award'.

TECH BITS
Bitcoin exec to spend two years behind bars for Silk Road transactions



Judge says police can create fake Instagram accounts to see photos



The US wants China's help blocking North Korean hackers



Evernote now adds context to your memos on Android and Windows



Chromebooks are getting always-on 'OK, Google' voice search

