



The power to do more

The Daily Star
DHAKA, MONDAY, JUNE 1, 2015
e-mail: bytes@thedailystar.net

INFORMATION

GADGETS

TECHNOLOGY

BYTES



WORLD'S NO.1 ANTI VIRUS TECHNOLOGY

Android M: what to expect

If you are an avid fan of Android then surely you didn't miss the Google I/O 2015. Although it's a developers' conference, it still enjoys a bewildering amount of attention. The reason is pretty much straightforward: this is when Google shows off its upcoming features, services, and products that will make a fanboy like me say 'AWWWWSSOME!'

Out of all the announcements, Android M, the next iteration of Google's Android operating system, was undoubtedly the showstopper. It promises to bring with it a plethora of goodies that is bound to enhance the Android experience. Here's what can be expected from it.

Auto Backup and Restore for Apps
Android M will back up all app preferences and settings to the user's Google Drive account. This will make personalizing a new Android handset much easier since apps can be installed and configured automatically according to predetermined preferences upon signing in to Google Drive. Although each app will have a 25MB data cap, it will suffice for all but the likes of extreme data requirements such as offline SoundCloud tracks. To everyone's delight, the backup data will not count towards the Google Drive storage quota.

Improved Battery Life and Faster Charging
Utilizing motion detectors, a new feature called 'Doze' will cut back on background app activity and data usage when the phone has been inactive for some time while still not hampering important notifications such as messages, alarms etc. This has resulted in doubling a Nexus 9's battery life compared to Android Lollipop, according to Google. Android M will also bring support for USB 3.1 Type-C. This will not only allow for three to five times faster charging, but also let users charge other devices with their phones, essentially turning the phone into a portable power source.

Revamped Google Chrome and Chrome Custom Tabs
In addition to supporting Offline Mode, Chrome will modify the displayed contents based on network strength. Optimized web pages will load four times faster and use 80% fewer bytes. RAM usage will also decrease by up to 80MB. Moreover, a new feature called Chrome Custom Tabs will allow apps to launch a custom Chrome window instead of the app itself. These tabs support automatic sign-in, saved passwords, auto-fill, and multi-process security to assist the integration of the app and can be personalized to include app-specific features.



specific features.

Mobile Payments
Having slightly lagged behind Apple Pay and Samsung Pay, Google will introduce its own mobile payment facility called Android Pay with Android M. Working on the same principle as the previous two, this feature will work with touch payment equipment terminals via NFC. According to Google,

Android Pay will work with Visa, MasterCard, Amex and Discovery.

Fingerprint Support
As is already available on iPhones and Samsung handsets, Google is standardising support for a biometric fingerprint scanner. This will allow users to use fingerprints not only to access the phone but also to validate permissions on Google Play and Android Pay.

And with native fingerprint support, more devices along with Google's own Nexus line can be expected to come with a fingerprint scanner.

Enhanced App Permissions
A major change in app permissions will be when and how apps ask for permission. Users no longer have to allow apps multiple permissions at the point of installation. Instead the app will ask for permission when it first requires access to a certain feature of the handset. Permissions will be classified into Location, Camera, Contacts, Phone, SMS, Calendar and Sensor. Although this will increase the number of times an app asks for permissions, it will vastly overcome the drawback of users having to allow the app hard-to-understand permissions off the bat.

Moreover, Android M will feature support for 4K resolution, Hotspot 2.0 on devices like Nexus 6 and Nexus 9 and improved support for Bluetooth Stylus.

Google has already made the Android M Developer Preview available for its Nexus 5, Nexus 6, Nexus 9 and Nexus Player devices. The final version of the OS is set to launch in Q3 2015.

AHNAF AKEEF



a2i bags WSIS Award

Access to Information (a2i) program under the Prime Minister's Office has once again earned international recognition. The National Information Portal developed by the a2i Program has received the World Summit On Information Society Award 2015 under the 'Access to Information and Knowledge' category. A press conference was organized in this regard in the Korobi Hall at the Prime Minister's Office where Md. Abul Kalam Azad, Chief Secretary of the Prime Minister's Office, highlighted key aspects of the National Information Portal.

The Secretary stated that the award was handed over to Bangladeshi delegates in a grand ceremony held at the International Telecom Union HQ in Geneva, Switzerland. a2i

project Director and Director General (Admin) of Prime Minister's Office Kabir Bin Anwar, Policy Advisor Aneer Chowdhury and Director (E-service) Dr. Md. Abdul Mannan received the award on behalf of Bangladesh. Mr. Azad further added that in the primary selection for the 3rd category of the WSIS Award 2015, 46 projects from America, China, Germany, Indonesia, Egypt, India, Saudi Arab, Malaysia, Kuwait, Italy and Poland were nominated.

Bangladesh's National Information Portal is one of the largest government portals which connects 25,000 websites and 42,000 government offices. The info portal is playing a significant role in providing various services to the citizens in a short time without any hassle. Services provided by the portal include birth

and death registration, utility bill payments, application for passport, tax payments, form downloads and more than 150 other services. The portal has over 20 lakh content including an archive of 45,000 photographs of historically significant sites and archaeological artifacts. Moreover, an E-directory containing profiles of over 7 lakh government officials have also been included in the portal.

It must be mentioned that the WSIS Award is considered a major recognition for contributing in developing the ICT sector. a2i Program had won the WSIS Award last year as well for developing a Digital Center. This year, another project of the a2i Program- Teacher's Portal, was nominated in the 4th category for the WSIS Award.

JUST IN

ASUS RT-N-12HP 3-in-1 wireless router

ASUS RT-N-12HP wireless router is now available in Bangladesh. It can be used in three modes such as Router, Access Point and Range Extender. Within the Router, there are used two power antennas for Data Receiving and Transmission. This router is connected with 300% wider range area by 9-dbi Antenna. This system is configured with Dynamic Bandwidth allocation and spreading range. It also includes online multitask, Output Power and Wireless Signal. Price: Tk. 5,000/-



UBS introduces Optoma S316 projector

Optoma S316 will help users demonstrate their presentations at ease. With a powerful 3200 lumen bright image and superb 20,000:1 contrast ratio, the Optoma S316 delivers fantastic presentations with rich, vibrant colors and sharp, easy to read text, graphics and video. Packed with an impressive array of connectivity options, a 1.1x zoom ratio projection lens for placement flexibility and up to 10,000 hour lamp life, the Optoma S316 is ideal for use in classrooms, meeting rooms, and training rooms. Price: Tk. 29,900/-



TECH HAPPENING

Bangladesh ICT Expo 2015 to start from 15th June

ICT Division in collaboration with Bangladesh Computer Samity (BCS) is going to organize an ICT exhibition titled Bangladesh ICT Expo 2015. The expo will be held at the Bangabandhu International Conference Centre, Agargaon, Dhaka from 15th till 17th June. Shyam Sunder Sikder, Secretary of ICT Division and AHM Mahfuzul Arif, President of BCS announced the news in a press conference held at the BCS Innovation Center. At the press meet, it was revealed that more than 100 renowned ICT organizations and more than 10 ministries of Bangladesh would participate at the expo. This event will showcase innovative ideas as well as cutting-edge technologies being developed in the local ICT sector. Present ICT projects, programs and initiatives of government and private-sectors will also be displayed. It was also announced that the expo will incorporate a 'Made by Bangladesh' theme.

10th anniversary of the Bangla Wikipedia celebrated

Wikimedia Bangladesh, the local branch of the Wikimedia Foundation recently celebrated the 10th Anniversary of Bangla Wikipedia. Daffodil University was the co-organizer of the event. Zunaid Ahmed Palak, State Minister of ICT inaugurated the event. Prof. Dr. Lutfur Rahman, vice-chancellor of Daffodil International University and Munir Hasan, chairman of Wikimedia Foundation were also present in the event. Nurunnabi Chowdhury Hasib, administrator of Bangla Wikipedia and Director at Wikimedia Bangladesh, moderated the event. The day-long event hosted workshops and seminars for volunteers and contributors on improving the information, entry editing, adding images and many more.



Huawei brings 'Seed For Future' competition to Bangladesh



Huawei Technologies (Bangladesh) Ltd is organizing a competition named 'Seeds for the Future' - Huawei's global CSR flagship program. It is Huawei's most heavily invested CSR activity. The program seeks to develop local ICT talent, enhance knowledge transfers, and improve people's understanding of ICT and interest in the telecommunications industry. Students of University of Dhaka (DU), Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET), Chittagong University of Engineering & Technology (CUET), Khulna University of Engineering & Technology (KUET), Islamic University of Technology (IUT) will participate in this competition. Huawei is looking for young and energetic students with great zeal to come up with new ideas and ICT solutions on the theme "Enriching people's lives through E-Service". The final ten participants will have the opportunity to study and get training at Huawei HQ in China.

Mr. Jacky Li, CFO; Mr. Kazi Mabasher Hossain, Director- Public Affairs and Communication Department and Md Khairul Anam, PR Manager were present at the launching ceremony of 'Seeds for the Future' along with other Huawei officials

KASPERSKY SECURITY UPDATE

5G: why do we need it?

While LTE networks are seemingly just now starting to take off and are not yet omnipresent, networking vendors and carriers are already fully engaged in a vivid discussion on 5G's perspectives. Some companies have even started to actively invest in PR efforts, like MegaFon and Huawei who promised to launch a 5G trial for FIFA 2018, which will be held in Russia.

Those who struggle to stay ahead of the game are quite indecisive about 5G's benefits: "High-bandwidth mobile Internet access and an increasing number of affordable devices drive massive growth of data volumes. 5G connectivity will provide higher capacity networks, which will ease the load and lower the latency when transmitting the signal. Subscribers will be able to experience higher mobile speeds which will become available with the new standard - for instance, enjoying video streaming from second one, without waiting for the file to buffer", Huawei comments.

One of the major reasons why 5G will inevitably emerge is the

need for more capacity - enough to accommodate all IoT (Internet of Things) devices. It is predicted that every household will soon have over one hundred 'smart' connected devices - some of which might serve as 'base stations' to connect other appliances, like refrigerators or TVs. This approach is called Massive MIMO (Multiple Input, Multiple



Output): a client device connects to a number of transceivers simultaneously

A side advantage of 5G, in terms of security, is the possibility of finally eliminating Wi-Fi - high-bandwidth mobile Internet will outperform legacy solutions and even function better indoor than outdoor.



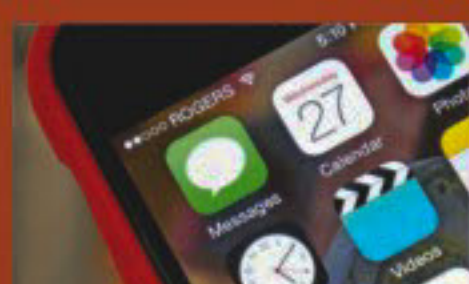
TECH BITS LightSail solar spacecraft gets back in touch with its ground crew



Google's solar plane crashed earlier this month in New Mexico



Apple offers a quick workaround for nasty iOS messaging bug



Facebook now supports GIFs, so go knock yourself out



IRS blames Russia for '\$50 million' hack

