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# E3 HARDWARE ROUND-UP

While E3 2017 may have ended, the ripples made by the announcements during the show are still being felt. A lot of gamers are still in awe of the flashy new IPs and jaw-dropping graphics while overlooking some of the major new hardware. Here is a round-up that serves to cure that problem.



## The Xbox One X

While the nomenclature of the 8th generation of Xbox consoles is a joke, the Xbox One X is most definitely nothing to be laughed at. Packing substantially more power than the PS4 Pro, the One X aspires to deliver native 4K resolution in all its games. The framerate is still variable from game to game, but the prospect of a console running games at that truly is a testament to the fact that we've moved into the future. It has 12 gigabytes of GDDR5 memory, an octa-core processor (which is less than impressive, clocked in at 2.3 GHz), and an integrated AMD graphics unit that is capa-

ble of 6 teraflops of performance. Moreover, this thing can also play 4K Blu-Ray discs of your favourite movies, something that the PS4 Pro can't do (to our utter disappointment). For \$500, you'll be getting a beast of a machine that is smaller than the Xbox One S. Microsoft has announced that the One X will be compatible with all games and accessories that works with the original line-up of Xbox One consoles. Also, there will be free 4K updates of most existing games in the future. Overall, a very good move from Microsoft that should allow them to catch up on lost ground against Sony.

## VR in eSports

Intel, in collaboration with ESL and Oculus, will be bringing in competitive titles that are based around VR. When we think eSports, we imagine a line of five or six gamers all staring at their monitors. It will be fun to see how VR delves into the realm of serious gaming and how it ditches the "gimmick" tag that it still carries around. Out of the games showcased, one was The Unspoken. In this game, players hurl magic spells at each other until one player dies. Sounds pretty bland but since it is being developed by Insomniac Games, high hopes can be held for this one.

## In Other News

Razer is bringing the Thresher Ultimate wireless gaming headset to the PS4 and Xbox One. It will have 7.1 surround sound and it will be priced at \$249. Logitech announced the first ever wireless mouse charging mousepad, the Powerplay. With this, you can pair up supported Logitech wireless gaming mice and enjoy a much better battery life.



## Sony PlayLink

Sony showed some promise with their new line of games designed to use Android and iOS smartphones as controllers for PS4 games. Currently, there are only a few new titles announced that will be compatible with PlayLink. One of those that sounded interesting was Hidden Agenda. It's a choice-based detective story in which one player gets a "hidden agenda" sent to their phone and they must influence other players in completing that agenda. It's an interesting take on deception-based games and PlayLink does have potential in bringing out more unique experiences created by clever developers.

SHAHRUKH IKHTEAR

## Top 5 WWDC announcements that weren't made on the stage



Like every year, Apple didn't disclose all the changes on the stage of WWDC. The stage was reserved for more monumental or groundbreaking revelations – which kind of makes sense. But that doesn't necessarily mean that the unannounced changes are insignificant. We went through the entire list of Apple's announcements and are bringing you the top five changes that weren't announced on the stage.

### NFC for all

Although most users didn't realize, but iPhones are equipped with Near Field Communication sensors for the last three years. It has been incorporated to push Apple Pay. Unfortunately, other than serving that function the NFC functionality was almost unused... until now. Apple has opened up the NFC for developers to play with. With this new found tool we can expect to see more apps particularly the ones that has already been on Android. **Wireless Keyboards are in** Apple finally has brought out a full sized keyboard. And that too a wireless keyboard. This is sort of a dream come true for pro-apple users particularly those who are working with iMacs. Now you get the number keys on side and all the function buttons on top. If you are an accountant using an iMac then your bad days are over!

### QR code directly from camera

Although it might not be a that big of a deal for android users, for Apple users its certainly a refreshing change of pace. Now-a-days we encounter QR codes in many places and the camera of iPhone will now directly trigger the code and lead to the URL or destination site. If you are a hardcore user then probably it's totally new to you. But you will get used to with. **Wi-Fi Password sharing made easy** This feature has been shamelessly copied from Windows 10 and has been pasted on iOS 11. Basically, now if an iOS 11 device is in your local network, other devices in the range can join in by simply clicking on the network SSID. You will get a prompt on your device, and if you accept, the password will be sent over the air to the new phone. Pretty

neat, right? Well, not as fancy as what Android is planning to bring in their newest android. Apparently you can get the password by pointing the phone in the direction of the router. **Screen-recorder for gamers** Not a groundbreaking feature for a regular user but for gamers it's a relief. No more third party apps – you can record your screen directly and share with your gang. Just give a month or two. The internet is going to get filled with videos of Candy crush and injustice videos (as if there weren't much before!) Apple made some more announcements during the week of WWDC that we haven't mentioned here. But we have the biggest ones already on the online version of BYTES. Read those here and let us know which one you loved most: www.thedailystar.net/bytes

## TECH HAPPENING

### Walton launches 7th gen i3 laptop

Walton recently launched seventh generation laptop in the local computer market, featuring a 15.6-inch High Definition LCD Display, 2.4 GHz Core-i3 7100U processor, built-in Intel HD Graphics 620, 1 TB HDD, 4GB DDR4 RAM and 2 years warranty facility. The price of this laptop starts from Tk 23,990/-.

### Tech Republic appointed as distributor of Jabra

The Tech Republic Limited has been appointed as the distributor of Jabra. Tech republic Managing Director H M Foyez Morshed and Jabra GN Managing Director (India) Peter Jayaseelan has signed an agreement in its Singapore office. Tech republic will now work as the sole distributor for Jabra in Bangladesh.

### LINNEX Smartphone Launched in Bangladesh

Linnex Mobile has recently launched 3 smartphones in Bangladeshi market. Humayun Kabir Bablu Managing, Director (MD) of Linnex; Aftab Mahmud Khurshid, Chief Marketing officer (CMO); Md. Wahiduzzaman, Channel Sales Head etc were present at the launching ceremony. At launching program Linnex also informed the press about their new Eid offers, Customers service options, future plan of the brand etc.



### Huawei Launches Y3 2017

Huawei recently launched its newest Y series device - the Huawei Y3 2017 in Bangladesh. This new phone features a larger 5.0-inch display, 8MP back camera, 2MP front camera, 1 GB RAM, 8 GB ROM and Quad-Core Processor. Price: Tk. 8,790/- available in two colors (black/golden)

### Edison Group brings selfie specialist Helio S10

Edison Group has made Helio S10 available in the market from 14th June 2017. The Chairman of Edison Group, Mr. Aminur Rashid unveiled the Helio S10 in a launching ceremony at a Hotel in Gulshan. Also present were Director of Marketing, Mr. Ashrafur Haque, Director of Corporate Affairs, Major Abdul Maleque Miajee, psc, (ret.) and Deputy Director, Sales, Mohammad Irfanul Huq.

### Samsung Mobile launched Eid-ul-Fitre's "The Grand Invite"

Earlier this month, Samsung Mobile Bangladesh announced this year's 'The Grand Invite' for Eid-ul-Fitre where every day, with the purchase of any Samsung Smartphone, the winners of the Mega prize of 'The Grand Invite' will get the

chance to 7 countries around the world. So far, sixteen lucky winners have won this once in a lifetime opportunity, the mega prize, to travel to any one of the 7 countries. The offer is valid till the night before Eid.

### DCL launched 3 smartphones

Daffodil Computers Ltd. launched their smartphone brand DCL last week. Mr. Moonir, Company Secretary, Mr. Jafar Ahmed Patwary, DGM, Mr. Jahir Ahmed, DGM Finance, Mr. Abdur

Rob, AGM Operation, Mr. Muhammad Toufiqul Islam, Head of Mobile Business and Mr. Fazlul karim, Manager Distribution of DCL were present during the launching ceremony.

## TECHBITS

Amazon is gobbling Whole Foods for \$13.7 billion



Samsung quietly acquired VR app studio VRB, sources say for \$5.5M



Alibaba is in talks to invest in Uber's Southeast Asia rival Grab



Woman raped by an Uber driver in India is now suing the company for privacy violations



Headspace's revamped app helps busy people turn meditation into a habit

