

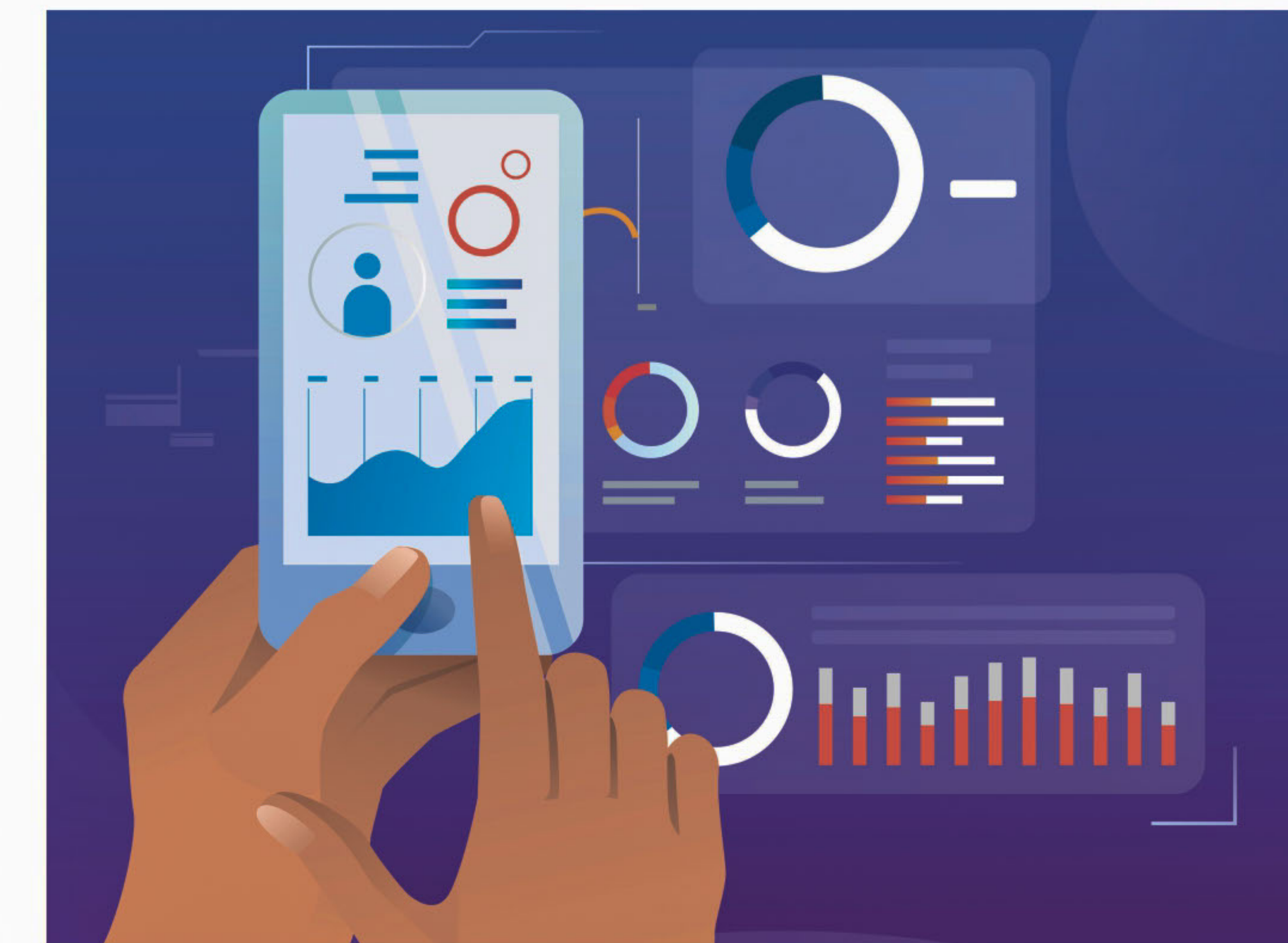
7 BEST APPS TO GET YOU THROUGH YOUR WORKLOAD

In the race of getting work done in time and meeting the hundred deadlines looming over you every other day, the following apps will help you better cope with the stress that life throws your way. To make things even easier for you, all the apps listed here are free of cost, and available for download in Android and iOS platforms, desktops and tablets.

WAVE (for money management)
Work and businesses are all about that cheque you receive and money you make, so you better be on top of your finances. Wave is one such app that makes this task easier for you by aiding you in managing your business bank account, sending invoices, paying dues and bills, storing receipts, etc. They are made available by the software company Wave Financial Inc. in various application-based platforms like Invoice by Wave for iPhone/Android, Payments by Wave for iPhone, Receipts by Wave for iPhone/Android, etc.

GOOGLE ASSISTANT (for digital Virtual Assistance)
Much like Spike Jonze's "Her", the possibility of a virtual assistant becoming an integral part of human lives is now a concept that isn't exclusively restricted to fiction. Much like Siri, Cortana, or Alexa, Google has now come up with one of its own, which probably beats the others by far because Google Assistant already knows everything Google knows about you. Assuming that's a lot of information, the app can be used for things starting from planning your schedule to finding good places for business lunch to even making reservations. All of it can be done directly on the web or queued up for online-syncing later.

WUNDERLIST (for task organisation and management)
Wunderlist needs to be your go-to app, if you're looking for an app to do an all-round job arrangement, be it with forwarding emails, arranging related files in folders to keep them organised, sharing your lists with your co-workers for streamlined collaboration on complex projects, etc. Besides, you can assign tasks to others as required, add deadlines and attachments, sort everything using hashtags, and have a comments system to allow your team to discuss the latest issues for ultimate synchronisation. To top it off, all its features are now available in the free version of the app with its desktop, tablet, smartphone and smartwatch version updated.



MOBILEDAY (for easy accessibility to meetings)

You're enjoying a hard-earned holiday by the beach, but your phone rings to notify you that you must hop on a conference meeting or lose track of the next big investment deal. That's when MobileDay saves your day as it syncs itself with your calendar and online meeting apps like Skype for Business, GoToMeeting, Google Hangout, etc. to put you into conference calls with a single click. It connects with any online meeting app with a button called "Join the Online Meeting", thus saving you the hassle of typing in the password or PIN code separately.

TEAMVIEWER (for remote access capabilities)

A dedicated platform for remote control, desktop (screen) sharing, online meetings, and internet conferencing, TeamViewer allows users to gain complete access to

other devices as though they were sitting right in front of them. It is free-for-private-use and gives the provision of file sharing, white board viewing, collaborating, and holding group meetings between two or more devices. So regardless of distance, real-time viewing and simultaneous accessibility are just one app and software away.

SLACK (for multipurpose collaboration)

You probably have heard of this tool that makes communication and collaboration as easy and fun as social networking, because it really is almost similar, with some added features that make working all the more organised. With Slack, all your office routines and conversations get neatly tidied up and easily searchable, as it gives users the option to create different channels for various projects, departments, and clients, to avoid loss of information.

LASTPASS (for remembering passwords)
Digitalisation of almost all aspects of our jobs

have called for different online platforms with different passwords for all these platforms. If you want to keep one up on cybersecurity, there's no getting around measures like putting different passwords for each website or application. To make this task easier on your brain, LastPass comes in with its technology of being super handy for storing password for every site you sign up in, upon providing one master password to access all your data. It can also access your passwords without internet connectivity, and record answers to the "secret questions" and other security guidelines you have to fill out in mobile or desktop applications.

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THE BOSSMAN

BY E. RAZA RONNY

BACK AT WORK AFTER THE HOLIDAY BEEF FESTS



The inner workings of cloud migration

Large scale distributed applications with high and dynamic workload are moving towards cloud to cope up with high demands, disaster recovery and easy management of infrastructure.

BMW moved its "BMW Connected" app to cloud. About 6 million BMW owners worldwide use this cloud-based application that offers a wide range of intelligent services. Users can use this app for entertainment, navigation, live traffic updates, communicating with friends, family and colleagues while on the road, remotely monitoring or controlling their cars, etc.

Building and maintaining such a complex application intended for a large customer group is a real challenge. From the end user's perspective, they are simply enjoying the seamless experiences provided by the BMW app. However, under the hood, the app's reliability and resiliency are maintained by Microsoft Service Fabric. This is a framework that helps build cloud-centric microservices-based applications. Microsoft Skype, Azure SQL DB, Cosmos DB, Azure Event Hub, Intune, Cortana, Azure IoT Suite are other popular cloud-based apps.

Microsoft Service Fabric's user base has always been unfamiliar with the internal architecture of the system, in spite of the system being the backbone of Microsoft's cloud-computing business for over a decade. At the beginning of 2015, a Bangladeshi student Sheguftha Bakht Ahsan, from the computer science department of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC), first got the opportunity from outside Microsoft

to thoroughly dig the system to analyse and measure its different components. He, under the guidance of Prof Indranil Gupta, completed a project in collaboration with the Microsoft team, exploring and validating the reasons behind Service Fabric's several claimed properties such as strong consistency. The duo also provided a high-level overview of Service Fabric, how its different components solve different distributed-system's problems and how these components are connected to form a single entity.



Sheguftha Bakht Ahsan

Sheguftha said that the old day's monolithic architecture, where all the components were stacked into a single package, is not appropriate for today's cloud-centric world. To cope-up with today's high demand, applications need to be designed in a distributed, robust, agile and cloud-friendly way. Microservices-based architecture is the key to designing such cloud-ready applications.

The software is divided into smaller components called "microservice" that can work independently to perform small tasks. They can

communicate with each other and share their results using well-defined protocols. They can independently run in different data centres located globally. If some of the components crash, the system needs an Oracle that will detect and recover the failure. The Oracle also monitors the load to increase or decrease the number of microservices depending on changing demand. The unpredictable cloud-environment ups the probability of servers or network-links failing at any time. Besides, the dynamic characteristics of the "load" deteriorate things. Therefore, it is not practical for unaided "human operators" to act as the Oracle and handle such a large fleet of microservices.

Microsoft Service Fabric is a distributed platform that handles these challenges and orchestrates the large number of microservices. It enables design and life-cycle management of microservices in the cloud to efficiently solve problems so that application developers can fully concentrate on designing applications.

Sheguftha said, "This research is just a starting point that sketches out the directions of further researches on Service Fabric." He plans to find out how to manage risks and ensure consistency in an unpredictable environment, unlike the well-maintained and well-monitored infrastructure at Microsoft.

For students who look forward to doing research in this field, Sheguftha said, "The field is still expanding and so are the opportunities to explore it. With university-industry collaborations, there are greater opportunities for students to do research."

Making a DIFFERENCE

Bangladesh is rapidly moving towards middle income status by 2021. Our businesses definitely offer immense opportunities for the growing economy and this diversity needs a stage for the stories untold. See Bangladesh make its mark on the global map as Making a Difference brings you our proudest success stories from across the country.

Must-have skills for fresh graduates

Top 6 skills that employers look for in prospective employees

While it is true that companies might look at the school that you graduated from, it is not always a priority. Companies understand that fresh graduates are yet to have experiences and that's why their main goal is to try and find out if applicants have the essential skills needed for the position and the capabilities needed to meet the company standards. Here are some skills that employers usually look for while hiring fresh graduates.

TEAMWORK SKILLS

Corporations are made up of teams with people from diverse backgrounds. It is necessary to be a team player, with a passion for collaboration.

COMMUNICATION SKILLS

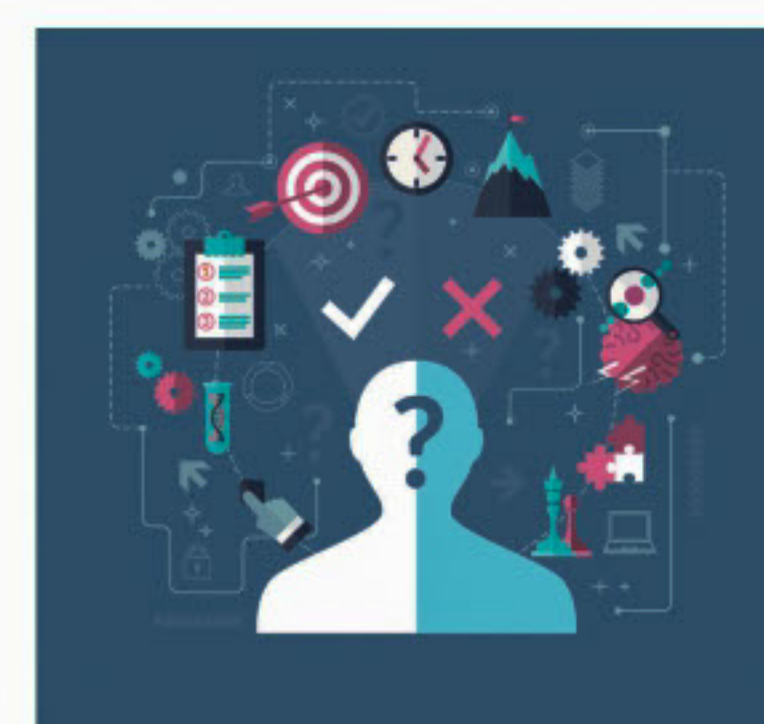
Employers get the very first impression of candidates during interviews and for that it is necessary to communicate with them fluently and clearly to express ideas and thoughts professionally.

INTERPERSONAL SKILLS

It is imperative to treat everyone with respect, aside from having good communication skills.

LEADERSHIP SKILLS

Employers choose fresh graduates who show the potential to be a



team leader in the future. Having leadership skills shows that you are a self-starter and can handle decision making well.

TIME MANAGEMENT SKILLS

Punctuality is a great virtue and time is a very important resource, especially in the dynamic corporate

world. Punctuality is an indication of one's time management skills. It reflects how one would prioritise one's tasks and accomplish them on time.

CREATIVE SKILLS

Employers are mostly on the lookout for individuals who can bring in something new for the company by thinking outside the box. Doing an honest assessment of one's skills and capabilities and taking the path to self-improvement will surely benefit someone as they chase after their dream job.

NABILA HOSSAIN

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