

High-performance computing a path forward for Bangladesh



Professor Torsten Hoefer, Professor of Computer Science at ETH Zurich and recipient of the 2024 ACM Prize in Computing

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As Bangladesh continues its journey toward digital transformation and scientific advancement, high-performance computing (HPC) is emerging as a key driver of progress in sectors such as healthcare, climate prediction, disaster preparedness, and urban development.

In this conversation, Professor Torsten Hoefer, a globally recognised expert in supercomputing, Professor of Computer Science at ETH Zurich, and recipient of the 2024

ACM Prize in Computing, shares his insights on the potential of HPC to catalyse development in Bangladesh.

How can high-performance computing contribute to improvements in healthcare, climate prediction, and urban planning in Bangladesh?

Professor Torsten Hoefer: While I am not intimately familiar with the specific circumstances in Bangladesh, the deployment of high-performance computing infrastructure is certainly feasible, assuming there is sufficient local expertise to utilise it effectively. The presence of skilled human capital is fundamental, alongside the establishment of the necessary technological infrastructure. These two elements can be developed in parallel; however, where a qualified talent pool already exists, HPC can unequivocally serve as a powerful catalyst for advancing healthcare, climate modelling, and urban planning initiatives.

To what extent can HPC and large-scale simulations enhance Bangladesh's preparedness for floods and cyclones?

Hoefer: Enhanced regional weather forecasting, whether through refined numerical models or AI-driven approaches, can significantly increase lead times and reduce forecasting errors. This capability can substantially improve disaster preparedness and response. Regional cooperation is often advantageous in this domain. Collaborations with neighbouring countries can enable shared

investments in computational infrastructure and facilitate the recruitment and retention of specialised expertise.

What advice would you offer to Bangladeshi researchers seeking to cultivate world-class skills in HPC and computational science?

Hoefer: I would recommend a dual strategy: learning from international research communities and contributing actively to local scientific endeavours. Such reciprocal collaboration tends to accelerate progress. For individual researchers, it is critical to develop deep expertise within a focused area to maximise impact. Furthermore, forming well-structured teams with complementary skill sets is essential to achieving significant scientific breakthroughs.

In your view, what is the most transformative impact that HPC could have on everyday life in Bangladesh over the next decade?

Hoefer: Although I am not personally acquainted with the nuances of daily life in Bangladesh, broadly speaking, high-performance computing holds the potential to significantly enhance public services. These include improved regional and extreme weather forecasting, healthcare delivery, and strategic planning in transportation and logistics. Such improvements facilitate more informed decision-making and yield better societal outcomes. Moreover, HPC forms the foundation for the advancement of artificial intelligence, which increasingly plays a vital role in driving innovation and supporting human development worldwide.

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Your data will train LinkedIn's AI unless you opt out



IMAGE: UNSPLASH

NEXT STEP DESK

LinkedIn has recently announced that its user data will soon be shared with Microsoft and its affiliates to help train AI systems, a move framed under what the company describes as its "legitimate interest".

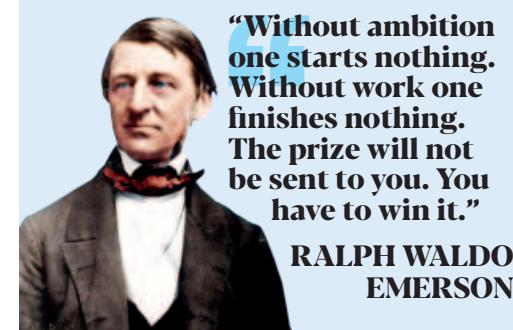
In a recent post, LinkedIn said, "On

November 3, 2025, we'll start to use some data from members in these regions to train content-generating AI models that enhance your experience and better connect our members to opportunities." In the United States and other countries, LinkedIn has confirmed that data will also be shared with Microsoft

from the same date, including profile information, feed activity, and advertising interactions.

How to opt out: Navigate to Settings & Privacy > Data privacy > Data for Generative AI Improvement. Toggle off 'Use my data for training content creation AI models'. Users may also file a Data Processing

Objection request to formally object. The objection form can be accessed by selecting 'Object to processing for training content-generating AI models' and submitting the request. Non-members are also able to file an objection if their personal data has been shared on LinkedIn by a member.



"Without ambition one starts nothing. Without work one finishes nothing. The prize will not be sent to you, You have to win it."

RALPH WALDO EMERSON

THE CAREER JUNGLE GYM: thriving when there's no ladder to climb

SHAMS RASHID TONMOY

For decades, career success was symbolised by the ladder - a predictable climb toward seniority. Today, that model is becoming obsolete. Welcome to the career jungle gym, where progress is multi-directional and success is defined by versatility rather than vertical ascent. Unlike the single-path ladder, the jungle gym celebrates movement in all directions. Strategic lateral moves, diagonal advancements through cross-functional projects, and occasional downward steps to gain new platforms - all represent meaningful progress. The goal shifts from climbing to exploring, from following a predetermined path to crafting your own unique route through the corporate landscape.

powerful market forces. According to the 2025 Global Leadership Development Study by Harvard Business Impact, AI integration is causing a "nonlinear evolution of roles", fundamentally reshaping jobs rather than merely enhancing them. Organisations now focus on building "collective intelligence of humans and machines", creating partnerships that demand unprecedented adaptability from professionals.

TO THRIVE IN THIS NEW ENVIRONMENT, EMBRACE THESE THREE STRATEGIES: First, become a strategic explorer. Success requires looking beyond the traditional promotion path. Try to develop what might be called 'career peripheral vision', the ability to spot opportunities in unexpected places. This means

proactively seeking lateral transfers, volunteering for cross-departmental initiatives, and considering roles that offer crucial skill development rather than just title advancement.

Second, prioritise skills over titles. In the jungle gym, your capabilities, i.e. your grip strength, matter more than your position. The Harvard study reveals that the half-life of skills has collapsed from approximately 26 years to under five years, making continuous learning essential. Thus, seek to build a dynamic skills portfolio through what might be termed 'fractional professional development', i.e. maintaining deep expertise in your core area while systematically acquiring complementary skills through stretch assignments and side projects.

Finally, champion your humanity. While technical

skills form the structure's sturdy poles, human capabilities provide the coordination and creativity to navigate it effectively. As AI handles more analytical tasks, your ability to connect authentically with colleagues, exercise ethical judgment, and inspire teams becomes your strategic advantage. The study emphasises that leaders must now blend "strategic, digital, social, and emotional intelligence" to succeed in this new environment.

The career jungle gym isn't a temporary trend but the new reality of professional growth. By embracing fluid movement, committing to continuous learning, and leveraging uniquely human strengths, you can build a career that's both fulfilling and resilient, one that is ready for whatever changes the future may bring.

Meta tracks employee AI usage with 'games': report



NEXT STEP DESK

Meta is monitoring employee adoption of AI tools through internal dashboards and has created a gamified system to encourage usage, according to a recent Business Insider report.

The company's Reality Labs division has set a target of achieving over 75% AI adoption among its teams, as per internal sources that spoke to Business Insider. As per the inside sources, the AI usage tracking initiative includes a voluntary game called 'Level Up', where

employees earn badges for reaching AI usage milestones. Expectations vary across departments, with some teams encouraged to experiment while others face specific adoption targets.

The push reflects a broader industry trend where major tech firms are actively promoting internal AI use. Google tracks productivity gains from AI tools, while Microsoft is attempting to link AI usage to performance reviews, states the report, adding that a Meta spokesperson acknowledged that increasing AI adoption is a company priority.