Symposium on “Computing Research that Changed the World: Reflections and Perspectives”

The overall message of this symposium was that computing research has made game-changing advances in the last two decades, from which we can extract lessons for structuring future programs to sustain that track record. The symposium featured four sessions: “The Internet and the World Wide Web,” “Evolving Foundations,” “The Transformation of the Sciences via Computation,” and “Computing Everywhere!”. Each session consisted of three talks and a short discussion that identified future challenges. These four sessions were followed by a discussion among all the speakers, with input from attendees, which framed a call-to-action for the future. Read and watch the proceedings of this symposium at http://www.cra.org/ccc/locsymposium.php

Ten Reasons to Dump Windows and Use Linux

Now is a particularly good time to ditch Windows for good, for workstations as well as servers. For instance, now that Microsoft stopped supporting Windows Server 2003 on July 13, you'll need to find something different to use for your servers. Whether it's switching from Windows Server 2003 to 2008 or to Linux-based servers--or changing out tired and faulty Windows Vista desktops for the alien Windows 7 or something more user-friendly--Linux provides you with freedom and freedom of choice. You might believe that dumping Windows and switching to Linux is a difficult task, but the change in thought and the perception of that switch are the most difficult. If you've attempted an upgrade from Windows XP to Windows 7, you know what pain is. Read this article at http://www.pcworld.com/businesscenter/article/201731/ten_reasons_to_dump_windows_and_use_linux.html

Why India's Rs. 1,500 laptop will never exist

"India unveils $35 computer for students," says CNN.com. "India unveils prototype for $35 touch-screen computer," reports BBC News. "India to provide $35 computing device to students," says BusinessWeek. Wow! That's great! Too bad it will never exist. That this announcement is reported straight and without even a hint of skepticism is incomprehensible to me. Read the full story at http://www.computerworld.in/articles/why-indias-rs-1500-laptop-will-never-exist-40612010

Five cloud storage services compared

"Syncing to the cloud" may sound like marketing-speak, but it's actually a convenient thing to do: Upload your important files to an online server and access them from any of your other computers and mobile devices. For this roundup, I chose five services that store, sync and share your files in the cloud: DriveHQ, Dropbox, OpenDrive, SpiderOak and ZumoDrive. I reviewed them using their desktop front-end clients, and I used only the free account versions of these services (because everybody likes free stuff). Most of these also offer paid upgrades; in those cases, I list the other options that are available. Read the full story at http://www.computerworld.in/articles/five-cloud-storage-services-compared-40602010

A new due diligence checklist for your next software license agreement

We put together a thorough due diligence checklist when we selected the software. We formed a cross-functional selection committee, started with several candidate software companies, winnowed down the choices, performed an in-depth cost/benefit analysis, presented our thought process to the executive team and made our final decision. Once the decision was made, we then started the grueling negotiations to get the best deal possible on the licenses for the software chosen. Read this interesting story at http://bit.ly/avHa6S
Free IT outsourcing templates: SLAs, RFPs and more

Negotiating an IT outsourcing deal has many steps, from sending out a request for proposal (RFP) to nailing down contract terms, including service-level agreements (SLAs). Those processes can be easier if you have best practices or even IT outsourcing templates to follow, as they walk you through the steps and decision points. Here, we have compiled a sampling of free IT outsourcing templates to help enterprise organizations in their sourcing strategies. These include SLA templates, RFP templates and more. Offered by a range of organizations, from professional associations to vendors and publishers, the templates and other materials can help you enter into a sourcing negotiation confidently and reach your goals. Have a look. Read the full story and download the templates from http://bit.ly/ansXTa

The perfect storm: Why now is the time for open source?

Current economic volatility combined with increasing pressure on IT groups has created an IT perfect storm. As a result, the value of low-cost, high-return open source solutions resonates more than ever. By harnessing the perfect storm rather than letting it set priorities and dictate tasks, managers have the chance to truly transform their organizations through the use of open source. Indeed, the high value of open source, coupled with economic and organizational pressure, represents a "perfect storm" for CIOs, giving them the opportunity to deploy high-performing, cost-effective open source solutions to carve costs out of their IT infrastructures. Download this white paper to learn the benefits of using open source technology in your organization from http://www.findwhitepapers.com/force-download.php?id=9395

IT Security: A step by step guide for growing businesses

Read this whitepaper & create a step-by-step approach to IT security that will work for your business. URL: http://www.findwhitepapers.com/force-download.php?id=9036

Using Social Media to Advance Your Online Training Program eGuide

This new eGuide at http://www.findwhitepapers.com/force-download.php?id=9019 explores the latest uses and trends in social media and provides strategies for leveraging social media to improve the online training experience for both trainers and students.

Smart Wireless Awards - Call for Entries

The CDMA Development Group (CDG) is pleased to announce the Call for Entries for the first annual 2010 SMART WIRELESS AWARDS program, which celebrates and promotes the most innovative wireless products and services using modules on CDMA networks in the areas of healthcare, consumer electronics, energy and telematics vertical market segments. No entry fees to submit your module, device or service solution. Online submission accepted up to 20th Aug 2010 at http://www.cdg.org/smartawards/

NPTEL: National Programme on Technology Enhanced Learning

This channel provides technical lectures from all seven Indian Institutes of Technology and Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore. The Video Courses are organised as PLAYLISTS under the following Categories: Core Sciences; Civil Engineering; Computer Science and Engineering; Electrical Engineering; Electronics and Communication Engineering and Mechanical Engineering. Please visit the Playlists section in this channel at http://www.youtube.com/iit to view the complete list of courses.

Open Security Foundation Offers Clearinghouse for Cloud Security Resources

The Open Security Foundation, providing independent, accurate, detailed, current, and unbiased security information to professionals around the world, announced today that it has launched Cloutage (cloutage.org) that will bring enhanced visibility and transparency to Cloud security. The name Cloutage comes from a play on two words, Cloud and Outage, that combine to describe what the new website offers: a destination for organizations to learn about cloud security issues as well as a complete list of any problems around the globe among cloud service providers. For more details visit the site at http://cloutage.org/
One way to play matchmaker

Father: “I want you to marry a girl of my choice”
Son: “I will choose my own bride!”
Father: “But the girl is Bill Gates’ daughter.”
Son: “Well, in that case…ok”

Next, the father approaches Bill Gates.

Father: “I have a husband for your daughter.”
Bill Gates: “But my daughter is too young to marry!”
Father: “But this young man is a vice-president of the World Bank.”
Bill Gates: “Ah, in that case…ok”

Finally the father goes to see the president of the World Bank.

Father: “I have a young man to be recommended as a vice-president.”
President: “But I already have more vice-presidents than I need!”
Father: “But this young man is Bill Gates’s son-in-law.”
President: “Ah, in that case…”

ICT News Headlines & Briefs

- Google pushes for Net neutrality in India.
- The Coimbatore Tidel Park get inaugurated. To have space of 9 lakh sq.ft for IT and ITeS companies and is expected to provide employment to over 12,000 professionals in one shift.
- Wipro Infotech bags crime tracking network project.
- The Supreme Court asks private telecom companies, which are members of the Cellular Operators Association of India, to submit their revenue sharing details to the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG).
- Mobiles (25 million) without unique ID number connected still; ban only on paper.
- India is preparing a blueprint for undertaking counter cyber warfare on unfriendly countries. In order to secure key areas such as banking, Defence, the Railways, civil aviation, atomic energy and oil and gas, it is being proposed to set up a Computer Emergency Response Team for each of these sectors.
- Kerala's second data centre to steer ‘cloud computing'
- A venture of the Hong Kong-based Grow VC, it is being billed the world's first ‘crowd funding' and interaction platform for start-ups. The Indian operations of the venture which kicked off last month help start-ups raise funds from anyone who has as little as Rs 1,000.
- The IT industry in West Bengal posted eight per cent growth in 2009-10, holding out the promise of 20 to 25 per cent growth in employment opportunities.
- Andhra Pradesh hopes to double its contribution to national IT exports from 15 per cent in 2008-09 to 30 per cent by 2014-15.
- The Union Ministry of Information Technology and Communication has approached the Prime Minister, Dr Manmohan Singh, to offer uniform tax incentives to IT companies as opposed to the practice of limiting such incentives only to companies that are located in special economic zones (SEZs) and those that meet certain stipulations of investments or area.
- RCom may offer 3G services by year-end.
- Nokia adopts 5 villages to ring in inclusive growth.
- DoT to allow remote access for foreign long-distance players.
- Bharti Airtel has joined a consortium of global telecom operators to announce the launch of the EASSy cable system — the 10,000 km undersea cable connecting Africa to Europe.
- Quick Heal launches mobile virus scan
- Aircel has taken yet another significant step in its endeavour to open up a world of possibilities for its customers in Kerala by launching the wireless Internet phone (WIP), the first of its kind in the country.
- Tata Teleservices has launched a new tariff plan ‘Ulta Plan,' offering STD calls at 30 paise a minute and local calls at 50 paise a minute. It is probably the only tariff plan wherein STD calls actually cost less than local calls.
- IT industry cries foul over US plan to hike visa fees. It would cost Indian IT companies an additional expense of $200-250 million.
- The One Laptop Per Child (OLPC) project that offers notebook-size laptops at Rs 15,000 to children in the country, is looking to sell 10 lakh units in India in 2010.
• IT vendors' BPO business slows down.
• Samsung bets on 'Bada' platform for smart phones.
• IT majors see higher revenues from global retailers.
• Six bidders, including Sterlite, Aksh Optic Fibre, Indian Telephone Industries (ITI) and Teracom, have bid for the Rs 9,000-crore optical fibre cable network being rolled out for the Defence forces.
• Wipro Ltd., has become the first company headquartered in India to be recognized as a Bluetooth Qualification Test Facility (BQTF) by the Bluetooth Special Interest Group (SIG).
• Nomination panel will identify a successor well before I retire, says Narayana Murthy.
• Cyber crime becoming a part of online life, says survey.
• Number portability must for new mobile services: DoT.
• The Government on Thursday gave Research In Motion Ltd (RIM), time until August 31 to address concerns raised by the security agencies on two services offered on BlackBerry devices.
• TCS top IT exporter of FY10; Genpact leads BPO pack.
• RCom, Acer launch netbook with broadband.
• Work visa fee hike move can hit job creation in US: Nasscom.
• The information technology sector is very inefficient. While the number of new technologies that hit the market is countless and users are getting sophisticated, the IT industry is unable to capitalise on them, according to Mr N. Chandrasekaran, CEO and MD of TCS.

Announcements
• CSI Service Awards 2009-10: Last date for recommendations is August 25, 2010. For details, visit http://www.csi-india.org/web/csi/csi-service-awards
• For CSI Calendar of Events, pl. visit http://www.csi-india.org/web/csi/event-calendar-july10
• To get the conf. proceedings of IFIP Networking 2010: International Conference on Networking hosted by IIT Madras and CSI during 10-14, May 2010, pl. contact Mr. S. Ramasamy at syppsystmd5.vsnl.net.in
• To join CSI as a member, pl. visit http://www.csi-india.org/web/csi/membership
• If you are interested in talking on your area of competence at CSI chapters, pl. register as a distinguished speaker at http://www.csi-india.org/web/csi/email

InfoQuiz–2010-08-16

1. Name IT major which was in news for having described as a “Chop Shop” by the US Senator Charles Schumer
2. Microsoft : LiveMesh = Apple : ------
3. Identify the company whose tagline is "Turn on Tomorrow"
4. ------ is the Taiwanese company that produces the iPod, the iPad, the iPhone and branded motherboards for Intel Corp.
5. The book “Bangalore Tiger” authored by Business Week senior writer Steve Hamm profiles the IT Major ------

Email your answers by 30th Aug 2010 to csi.infoquiz@gmail.com with subject “infoquiz-2010-08-16”. Please provide your full address and contact phone nos. after the answers. The first person to answer correctly and one randomly selected lucky winner will be awarded Rs. 500/= each by SRA Systems (www.srasys.com). Answers along with the winner info will be published in the next issue.

Answers & Winners of InfoQuiz-2010-08-01
• Annapurna, 128, Accenture, Offline Browsers, John McCarthy
• Mr. R. Jayakanthan from Chennai is the first one to answer correctly and Ms. S. Sunitha from Coimbatore is the lucky winner. They will receive a cheque for Rs. 500/= from SRA Systems shortly.

About the newsletter
This newsletter is a compilation of information from different sources which would be of interest to ICT professionals, academicians and students and published on 1st and 16th of every month. While adequate care has been taken to ensure the accuracy of links provided, we do not accept any liability. You are welcome to share interesting information and provide feedback, by emailing us at hrmohan.csi@gmail.com

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