

SOCIETY

THE
INFORMATION
TECHNOLOGY

THE MAGAZINE
OF THE
SINGAPORE
COMPUTER
SOCIETY

MICA (P) 014/07/2010

S\$4 where sold

issue
ONE
2011



THE RISE TO THE TOP

MEET THE NEW WINNING FACES OF
THE IT LEADER AWARDS 2011! Pg 4

Up-close with The Answer Man @ page 3
New SIG-Open Source Launch @ page 7



ALPHONSUS PANG
President
 Singapore Computer Society
alphonsus@scs.org.sg

INNOVATION IS THE WAY TO GO!

Let's start off the first quarter of 2011 on a high note, as we celebrate innovation and everything that has got to do about moving forward.

First on the list is the SCS International Journal of Information Technology (IJIT) website revamp. Not only will you be greeted with a new look, additional contents have been added in together with special issue guides featuring the latest research and breakthroughs of key technology players.

Moving on, the SCS Gala Dinner & IT Leader Awards this year took on a star-studded theme that combined the best of fun and celebration. Held at the Shangri-La Hotel, some of the most talented and inspiring industry professionals were recognised that night with various leadership titles. These include the first female recipient that was awarded with the IT Leader of the Year title and the recipient of the Young Professional

of the Year that started off his career in the IT industry at the young age of 16!

While it is undeniable that the use of technology can help businesses get ahead from the rest, the main issue for most is how it can be effectively implemented. All these and more are addressed in our Open Source Business Workshop, where key industry leaders share their thoughts and experiences on how the Open Source Software can empower enterprises when implemented effectively. Also related to the topic of getting ahead is the increased recognition of obtaining the Certification in IT Business Continuity Management (CITBCM) in order to raise the standards of IT professionals. Read about the experience of a recently certified professional and how it has helped him excel in his career.

As we adopt new technologies to help us learn more effectively, find out how this has enriched the learning experience as industry

professional, Fuan Poh Wai explores the wonders and possibilities of mobile learning. Meanwhile, the SCS Student Chapter Dialogue Tea Session addresses the importance of IT in the finance and banking sectors, which helps students prepare for the challenges and breakthroughs that await them in their future career paths.

Also, if you have always wondered how key players in the industry got to where they are today, turn to page 3 as Dr Chua Tat Seng, a recently conferred Fellow of SCS, talks about the different roles that his passion in the IT industry has led him to.

Last but not least, I'd like to congratulate our senior members who have now been conferred as Fellows of SCS — may they continue to make a difference with their contributions to the ICT profession as well as to the IT industry.

Here's to an exciting year ahead for all of us here at SCS!



Attribution-NonCommercial-Share
 Alike 3.0

The IT Society is the official publication of the Singapore Computer Society. Any part of this publication may be reproduced as long as credit is given to the publisher, Singapore Computer Society. The views expressed herein do not necessarily reflect the views of the Society.

feedback

We value your feedback on this magazine. Simply email scs.secretariat@scs.org.sg with your comments so we can produce an even more interesting and relevant magazine for you in subsequent issues. You are welcome to submit articles for consideration of inclusion.

For advertising enquiries, please call 6226 2567 or email scs.secretariat@scs.org.sg

CREDITS

editorial & design
 OCULUS DESIGN
 PTE LTD

Editor's Message

EMBRACING CHANGE AND INNOVATION

It has been an exciting start of the year for the Singapore Computer Society. We would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the winners of the recent IT Leader Awards that was held in conjunction with our annual SCS Gala Dinner 2011: Ms Tan Yen Yen (IT Leader of the Year), Adjunct Professor Lee Kwok Cheong (Hall of Fame), Mr Douglas Gan (Young Professional of the Year) and Vishnu Prem (IT Youth).

We are also pleased to report that the members of the executive council, under the vision and direction of our President, Mr Alphonsus Pang, have done a great job for the year by focusing on the key themes of SCS: Connectivity, Capability and Capacity. Through all their hard work, we have yielded an increase in membership to more than 23,000 members and organised an average of 1.7 events per week for the year.

Coming back to the main topic of the day, I would like to talk about the new realities faced by entrepreneurs who want to be involved in the mobile-web economy. The era of using business plans and powerpoint presentations is over. It is also unlikely now for people to brainstorm fundraising ideas on a piece of paper. In Silicon Valley, the venture incubator, Y-Combinator led by Paul Graham and his team have crushed this old school way of building a start-up by mentoring teams (with co-founders coming from a software engineering background) to produce a prototype and take the beta product to market. While the venture financing model is disrupted, so are the ways how entrepreneurs pitch their products. Today, entrepreneurs have to start with a "minimum viable product" (MVP) to demonstrate initial

traction and work out potential market opportunities for their idea.

There are three key principles on how a mobile-web start-up can come up with an MVP. The first principle is about being agile, where the co-founders build a product in the shortest time and most effective way possible. This is followed by the second approach, where they iterate on changes to the product continuously upon getting feedback from users and test until a killer feature is found. Upon discovery of the killer feature, the focus is then shifted to make sure that the market share of your product is quickly extended. Finally, the last principle involves pivoting. Upon failing in the fastest manner possible, learn from the lessons of why it did not work, change the strategy and develop the product in a different direction. This approach has helped many successful start-ups such as Facebook, Twitter and Foursquare to be at the forefront of the mobile web era.

With those principles, how do we proceed to come up with a prototype? One must remove the "my product must be perfect before going out" mindset. A 70% completed product with robust features can help you determine how users are interacting with your software application, be it mobile or web. The prototype should embody a few simple features that can be constructed without too much effort. One interesting example you will notice in the new companies coming from Silicon Valley is that of the user registration fatigue problem, where people are tired of signing up for new services. If you look at the new services such as Jumo and Beluga, most of them do



BERNARD LEONG

Editor

bernard.leong@scs.org.sg

not require a sign-up but instead encourage you to connect with an account from social networking or email services.

The next thing to do is to formulate a hypothesis about your web or mobile service, and be honest about it. You need as many as 100-1000 data points to get an indication on the traction of the product. Collect case studies on how different users interact with the product and what it is they are looking for. Then, you create hypotheses and ask questions, "Does feature X resolve the pain point of the user?", "What are the common uses of your platform?" and etc. You also make sure that you have served your target demographic group with the product you have in mind. Once you can establish the numbers, it becomes easier for you to approach investors.

So, what if you fail? The answer is that it does not matter, simply because it is just a prototype. You have two choices: either move on or continue iterating till you find it. The lesson to be learnt here is that you fail fast and move on. Life in a start-up is meant to be hard, and I don't think people have talked about how tough and harsh the environment really is.

Regulars	Members P+us	Connect IONs	ForeFront	Mix + Mingle
1_President's Note	17_New Fellows	5_Helping Smart Firms Build Corporate Resilience	3_The Answer Man	8_A Night Of Stunning Celebrations
2_Editor's Message	18_Members' Benefits	6_Mobile Learning, Finally Possible	4_Kudos To The Top 4 Achievers	12_Staying Ahead With The Business Continuity Certification
20_Final Say	19_Calendar Of Events	7_Empowering Enterprise Innovation Through Open Source		17_SCS Infocomm Survey 2010 - Lucky Draw Winners
		14_IJIT, A Fresh New Look		
		15_Banking IT		

contents

THE ANSWER MAN

The next time you find the answers you need on online forums and community sites like Yahoo!Answers, you may have Dr Chua Tat Seng to thank. Read on and find out how this SCS Fellow and NUS Professor is answering his call to make a difference in the IT industry.



What is your current role in NUS?

I am a KITHCT (*Kwan Im Thong Hood Cho Temple*) Chair Professor at NUS, which is a special recognition in the School of Computing.

I teach mainly the multimedia courses at senior undergraduate levels that cover basic principles, technologies, compression standards, applications of multimedia (particularly image and video) and the World Wide Web, plus analytic techniques for retrieval of web-scale media contents such as images, videos and audios.

Apart from that, I am also currently supervising 11 PhD students working on a range of research which include text and video retrieval, text-based information retrieval, question-answering as well as location and mobile search.

Other than teaching at NUS, what other posts are you holding right now?

I am the Head of the media group in the School of Computing (SoC), which comprises over 12 faculty members. Besides that, I am also the co-Director of the NUS-Tsinghua Centre for Extreme Search, and a member of the executive committee of SoC.

Your main research interest is in multimedia information processing. Can you explain how this research benefits the layperson?

My research aims to make constantly evolving, unstructured text and multimedia contents more accessible to everyone through the auto-organisation of information to

facilitate search and browsing.

In the text area, I focus on community question-and-answer sites like Yahoo! Answers and forum sites. Given a user's question, my work aims to find archived questions that already have good answers and extract the precise answers for the user. I also work on organising questions that are of recent interests as well as their answers, in order for users to have a good overview. This is done also for product reviews in forums, so that users have a good overview of the online community sentiments towards various aspects of the product.

I also enable media items to be retrieved based on a combination of social tags and visual examples. For this to work effectively, my system tries to identify whether certain objects and/or concepts are present in an image or video (also known as concept annotation research). Thus, even if that object or concept is not annotated by someone, the image is still retrievable via the text or concept-based query. Through this, users are able to retrieve relevant visual items based on a combination of text queries and visual examples in order to share them with others.

How and why did you get into the IT industry?

It was after my national service in 1976 when I was deciding what course to choose for my undergraduate studies. Back then, I only knew about engineering, but I thought computer science (CS) sounded more interesting and innovative, so I chose computer science and civil engineering. I liked it so much that I decided to focus on CS in my PhD, and have stayed with IT ever since.

When did you join the SCS and why?

SCS represents the computing community and industry in Singapore and it is natural for me to join their activities. Professionally, it offers a strong bridge between NUS and the voices of the IT community.

You were the Acting and Founding Dean of the School of Computing at NUS in 1998 – 2000. What challenges did you face then?

The challenges then were the quality of staff, students, academic programmes and research. It was all about recruiting the best quality academic staff and performing high quality, cutting-edge research.

You are a very prominent member in SCS and the industry, having served actively in various roles for many years. What prompted you to do so in the first place and what motivates you to continue serving all these years?

I focus my contribution on professional development, particularly on the Certification of IT Project Manager (CITPM). This area is important in the long-term development of IT professionals in Singapore – it is also something that is close to my heart.

What were your thoughts upon receiving the recognition of Fellow in the Singapore Computer Society?

It is a real honour.

Did getting those awards spur you on to do more for SCS or in your career? How and why?

Yes, definitely. Recognitions such as these would compel us to do even more to prove that we truly deserve it.

Among your achievements, which ones are you most proud of, and why?

It has to be research – to build and lead one of the world's top groups in research of text and video/image retrieval and question-answering.

How has your research in computing evolved over the years?

Similar to changes in the Internet, it has evolved from research in basic technologies to application-oriented research, and from techniques to enable enterprise/corporations towards enabling individuals. Hence, my current research will be skewed towards helping individuals make sense of the plethora of constantly changing information space and in living a better life.

KUDOS TO THE TOP 4 ACHIEVERS

Celebrating the success of SCS' top 4 IT professionals

As the celebratory spirits remained high among the attendees at the SCS Annual Gala Dinner, the real spotlight was on the four award recipients for the annual IT Leader Awards.



From Left: Douglas Gan, Tan Yen Yen, Lee Kwok Cheong and Vishnu Prem

Douglas Gan Young Professional of The Year

The Young Professional of the Year Award went to 27-year-old Mr Douglas Gan, founder and CEO of ShowNearby, Singapore's leading location-based service provider. With over a decade of experience in business and entrepreneurship in the Internet industry (he started out at the young age of 16), Mr Gan founded ShowNearby in March 2008 with good friend, Lee Chang Jin.

With a staff strength of 20, ShowNearby operates as a free location-based app for Android, BlackBerry and iPhone users with information on the points of interest and also serves as an avenue for business owners to run deals, discounts and connect with customers. ShowNearby now ranks as one of the top location-based service providers in the country and is looking to expand the brand internationally.

Tan Yen Yen IT Leader of The Year

The coveted IT Leader of the Year Award went to Ms Tan Yen Yen. As the current Senior Vice President of Applications for Oracle Corporation Asia Pacific and former Managing Director of Hewlett-Packard Singapore, Ms Tan's key leadership strengths lie in the capacity to innovate and think for the future of the company. At HP, she has helped establish its seventh corporate lab in Singapore, which helped boost Singapore's pool of scientific and research talent. In addition, she was also involved in IDA's Open Circus Cloud, a collaborated effort with HP, Intel and Yahoo! to create a global, multi data centre, open source test bed for advancing cloud computing research and education.

Lee Kwok Cheong From IT Leader to Education Innovator

A pioneer in the implementation of IT in Singapore and former President of SCS, Mr Lee Kwok Cheong was inducted into the Hall of Fame. The major achievements in Mr Lee's portfolio of work and contribution include heading the computerisation programme of the Singapore Civil Service some 30 years back, which then led to the birth of the nationwide IT2000 masterplan. Mr. Lee also took on the role as the unofficial IT ambassador for Singapore, promoting Singapore's IT capabilities and resources to the rest of the world. In 2005, he moved on to the education sector at SIM Global Education, where student enrolment has doubled to 20,000 today.

Vishnu Prem IT Youth 2011

The night was also about celebrating the success and talents of IT Youth, Vishnu Prem for his hands-on experience and ongoing commitment to the IT industry. He started off during his fourth year at the NUS High School of Mathematics & Science by building a Facebook application called Friendship with his classmate and mentor. This app that ranked members on their influence in their social circle has won him 2nd place in IDA's National Infocomm Club Awards 2008. Since then, his involvement and experience in the area has greatly increased, which has led him to conduct two 18-hour iPhone Application Development Workshops in Singapore.

HELPING SMART FIRMS BUILD CORPORATE RESILIENCE



1 Our panel of luminary experts in discussion about organisations equipping themselves to be more resilient led by Swaran. From 2nd left: Wong Tew Kiat (Service Delivery Director, NCS and President, SCS-Business Continuity Group), Touw June Wah (Deputy Director, BCM Focal Point, SBF), Lim Shih Hsien (Senior Director, Information & Security, MOH Holdings) and Raju Chellam (Managing Director, TechTenders Asia). **2** A successful turnout of more than 130 delegates at the Conference. **3** Emcee Swaran Kumar Kapur kicked off the morning with a warm greeting. **4** Delegates mingling at the sponsor exhibition areas to check out the cool deals. **5** MOS Lee Yi Shyan in dialogue with Alphonsus Pang (President, SCS) and Victor Tay (Acting CEO, SBF).

In the highly competitive and volatile business environments of today, businesses are faced with a multitude of challenges and risks, ranging from natural calamities, financial disruptions, information security and data integrity. The question that most organisations ask themselves is, whether they are able to deal with these challenges and issues when they come their way.

Thus, to help organisations address these commonly-faced issues, a Business Continuity Management Conference was organised by the SCS Business Continuity Group on 10 March 2011 at the Mandarin Orchard. During the conference, participants

were enlightened on the issue of crisis management and ways in dealing with it effectively. Apart from that, they were also given tips on strengthening resilience amid rising risks and uncertainties, and shown how getting the Certification in IT Business Continuity Management could help them do just that.

On behalf of all the participants present on that day, the SCS Business Continuity Group would like to express its thanks and appreciation to the following sponsors and organisers who have helped make the conference a success.

Organisers:



Gold Sponsors:



Silver Sponsor:



Supported by:





MOBILE LEARNING, FINALLY POSSIBLE

By Fuan Poh Wai



Let us take a moment to explore the wonders and possibilities of mobile learning, as I take you through a presentation that I delivered on 26 Jan 2011 at the SCS Resource Centre.

While I started by rolling out three different definitions of mobile learning, the one definition which I was in favour of was this: "Any sort of learning that happens when the learner is not at a fixed, predetermined location, or learning that happens when the learner takes advantage of learning opportunities offered by mobile technologies" by O'Malley et al. (2003).

This definition is preferred based on the ability of a person to learn and explore new technologies that surround him as he moves from place to place.

From here, the session then proceeded with a quick discussion on the evolution of mobile devices and new technologies that became mainstream in the past one to two years. The audience was also enlightened on the five stages of technology life cycle, which include Developing, Ascending, Peaking, Maturing and Declining. With that, we moved on to the main event where the 10 New Applications of Mobile Learning were explored in-depth:

1. Micro-blogging and Social Media
2. Data Collection and Information Retrieval

3. Augmented Reality
4. Mobile Gaming and Virtual Worlds
5. Contextual Learning - Personalisation
6. Rich Media Production/Playback
7. Performance Support and Coaching
8. Multimodal Input – Codes, OCR, Speech
9. Aggregated Inputs – Mashups, Cloud Computing
10. Self-organised Collective behavior

These ten new applications of mobile learning were further explained and demonstrated with a variety of mobile application examples developed by Nanyang Polytechnic and other organisations. The most outstanding examples were two videos that relate to the topic of Augmented Reality, namely 'Magic Book' and 'Augmented Reality Brain Surgery'.

To make the presentation more interesting, the audience was also introduced to the human body as a mobile learning platform. The session wrapped up with a look at the future beyond the next five years.

EMPOWERING ENTERPRISE INNOVATION THROUGH OPEN SOURCE

Open source is taking roots in enterprises throughout Singapore. More and more multinational companies are adopting open source software with a growing number of large enterprises warming up to the idea of using open source in business critical applications.

When it comes to driving innovation through the use of technology and tools, enterprises in Singapore have found open source to provide a good platform. The success stories of government organisations, Fortune 500 companies and large enterprises using open source software in business critical applications, coupled with the benefits derived through the use of these tools have prompted more enterprises in Singapore to take open source software seriously.

With this in mind, OSSIC SIG took the step to organise a workshop on 11 March 2011, aimed at facilitating dialogue among CIOs and IT strategists in order to share the best practices and get an all-round view of the impact of open source software on the business.



The interactive workshop was designed to provide a global consulting view, legal perspective and implementation, as well as the CTO's insights on software policy in the user's organisation.

Sachin Dabir, Chairman of the OSSIC SIG, opened the workshop by welcoming the audience and speakers before giving the OSSIC perspective and explanation of the session format.

This was followed by a moderation session with Harish Pillay, secretary of OSSIC SIG, where participants were asked to list their questions at the beginning of the session

to give speakers a good idea of the audiences' expectations and adjust their talks accordingly.

Accenture's global lead in open source

software practice, Tomas Nystrom, shared a recent survey of US and UK's 300 CIOs. In the survey, 76 per cent of respondents said quality was a key benefit of open source, while 71 percent cited improved reliability and 70 percent voted for better security or bug fixing as a driver for

deploying open source.

Also, Accenture found that half of the respondents (50 percent) are fully committed to using open source in their businesses, while almost a third (28 percent) said that they are experimenting with open source and keeping an open mind when it comes to using it.

Dr. Leong Mun Kew, CTO of National Library Board emphasised the need for software policy in organisations. He explained that with a good policy and process in place, you can adopt open source software with confidence and manage or reduce risks.

Mr. Bryan Tan of Keystone Law Corporation shed light on the legal and licensing aspects of open source software. He addressed some of the myths surrounding the licensing and distribution of open source software.

Mr. Tushar Malawade of Standard Chartered Bank shared his experience in implementing open source-based middleware on a large scale. He explained that the motivation to adopt open source software should not be centered upon the 'Free' aspect, but more on quality and ease of deployment.

The audience was kept engaged throughout the session, as some very good questions were asked. All this was made possible, thanks to the guest speakers.



The speakers: Tomas Nystrom, Accenture; Bryan Tan, Keystone Law Corporation; Dr Leong Mun Kew, National Library Board; Paul Anthony, member OSSIC SIG (host); Tushar Malwade, Standard Chartered Bank.



Almost 30 participants supported the event.

A NIGHT OF STUNNING CELEBRATIONS



On 4 March, we saw an illustrious gathering of over 900 infocomm professionals at the Shangri-La Hotel for the annual SCS Gala Dinner & IT Leader Awards 2011. Mr Lui Tuck Yew, Minister for Information, Communications and the Arts, was the Guest of Honour for the evening.

The night started off with a stunning Chicago dance performance that saw SCS President, Mr Alphonsus Pang, giving a surprise appearance before addressing the guests. The highlight of the night was the IT Leader Awards which paid tribute to four outstanding individuals for their achievements and contributions to the IT profession and development in Singapore. This year, SCS is proud to recognise the first female IT Leader of the Year, Ms Tan Yen Yen, Senior Vice President of Applications, Oracle Corporation.



1 SCS President, Mr Alphonsus Pang making a surprise appearance. **2** Alphonsus giving his welcome speech. **3** IT Leader Awards 2011 Winners. **4** Our Guest of Honour, Mr Lui Tuck Yew, Minister for Information, Communications and the Arts.



During the dinner, Mr Lui Tuck Yew shared on the development of a new infocomm manpower roadmap, termed "The Infocomm Manpower Development Roadmap - Version 2.0", or MDEV 2.0 for short. The evening ended on a high note with the much anticipated lucky draw with prizes worth more than \$20,000. Lucky winners took home attractive prizes such as the latest notebooks, mobile phones and a weekend stay at Shangri-La Hotel. In addition to the lucky draw prizes, guests also had a chance to win more prizes as NETS flashpay cards and Robinsons shopping vouchers were given away as table draw prizes. Congratulations to all lucky winners and many thanks to our sponsors for their kind sponsorship.



5 Our young IT Merit Award Winners together with Mr Alphonsus Pang and Mr Lui Tuck Yew. 6 The amazing SandArt performance that captivated the guests' attention. 7 Kuo Po with her jazzy saxophone solos that alternates with her powerful vocals. 8 Mr Philip Kwa receiving the top prize from Dr Tan Chin Nam. 9 Alex Siow, Wilson Tan, Mr Lui and Dr Lee Boon Yang. 10 Dr Bernard Leong receiving the table draw prize from Mr Alex Siow. 11 Group shot of Alphonse Pang, Jessica Tan and SCS Exco. 12 Jessica Tan having a chat with the IT Youth Winner and Young Professional of the Year. 13 Student Chapter members together with Mr Alphonsus Pang and Mr Gavin Ang. 14 Guests having a good time networking at the foyer.

The Singapore Computer Society thanked the following sponsors and supporters:

Sponsors of IT Leader Awards 2011:



Supported by Official Media:



Video Production by:



Platinum Sponsor:



Gift Sponsors:



Lenovo® recommends Windows® 7 Professional.

TAKES PERFORMANCE TO THE PEAK.

Combines superior performance and an amazing visual experience to magnify your thinking power.

Our exciting new range of ThinkPad notebooks, powered by the new 2nd generation Intel® Core™ i7 and i5 processors, have not only made huge leaps in terms of speed, performance and battery longevity, they also offer a stunning visual experience. Overall, expect better performance that leads to better employee productivity and an improved bottom line. **MAGNIFY YOUR THINKING POWER.**

ADVANTAGES



Intel® Core™ i7 and i5 processors
up to 10.5x performance



Intel® HD Graphics
up to 10x performance



Up to 10x battery life
up to 10x performance



E430



T430

lenovo

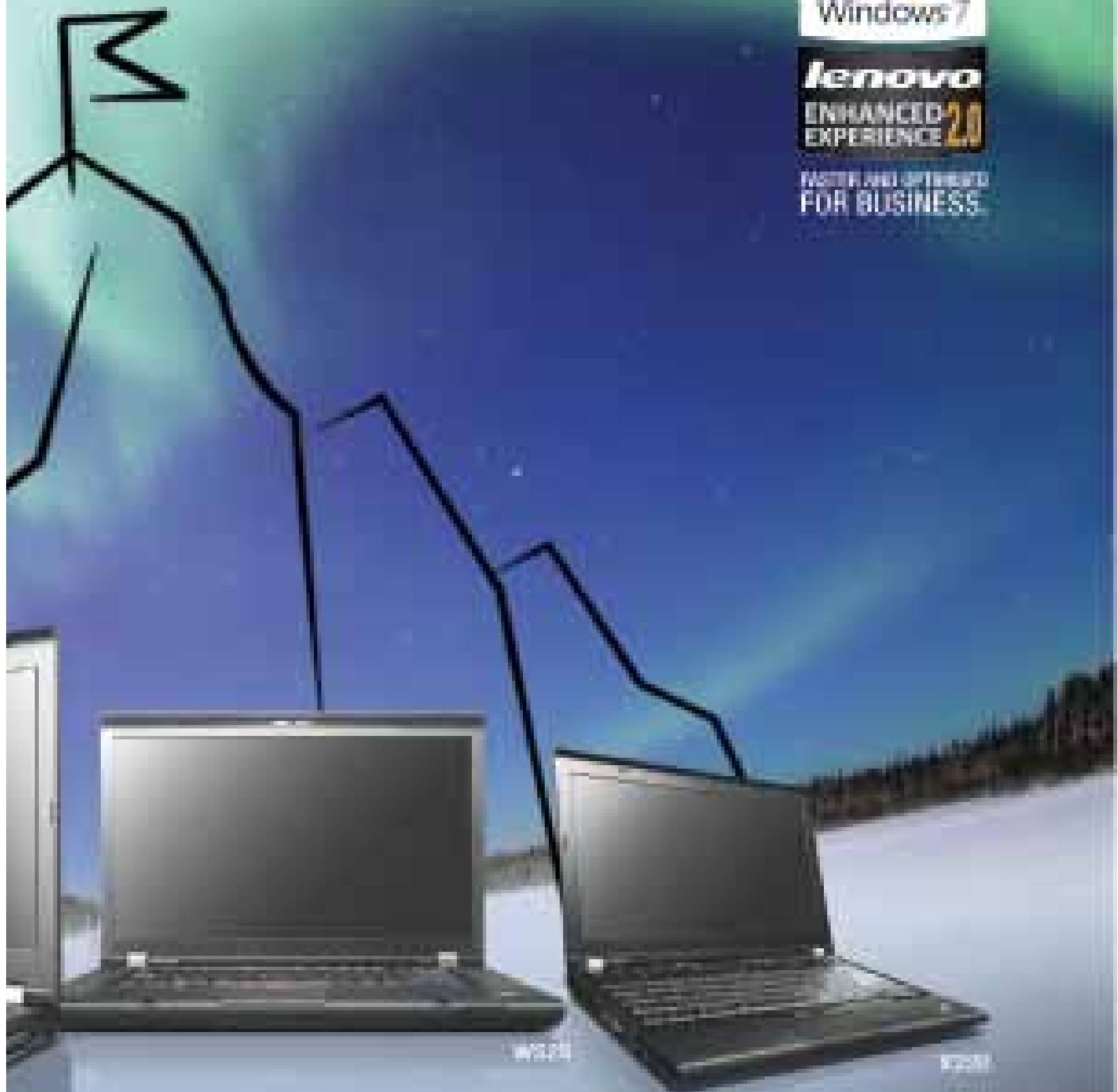
800.701.4817 www.lenovo.com

© 2011 Lenovo. All rights reserved. Intel, Intel Core, Intel Core i7, Intel Core i5, Intel HD Graphics, and up to 10x are trademarks or registered trademarks of Intel Corporation or its subsidiaries in the United States and other countries. Windows 7 Professional is a registered trademark of Microsoft Corporation in the United States and other countries. All other trademarks are the property of their respective owners.



lenovo
ENHANCED
EXPERIENCE **2.0**

NOTES AND OPTIMIZED
FOR BUSINESS.



W520

X201

THERE'S **MORE THINKING** IN A **ThinkPad**

© 2009 Lenovo Corporation. All rights reserved. Windows 7 is a registered trademark of Microsoft Corporation in the United States and other countries. Lenovo, the Lenovo logo, ThinkPad, and the ThinkPad logo are trademarks of Lenovo Corporation in the United States and other countries. X201 and W520 are trademarks of Lenovo Corporation. All other trademarks are the property of their respective owners.

STAYING AHEAD WITH THE IT BUSINESS CONTINUITY MANAGEMENT CERTIFICATION



Certified recipients of CITBCM. 2nd row 3rd person from right: Yang Ai Ling, CITBCM (Senior) from CPF. 2nd row 1st person from left: Lim Chin Yong, CITBCM from NCS.

Companies, ranging from private sectors to government agencies, unanimously agreed that having their specialists certified is the way to go, as the area is critical to their organisations' operations. Thus, professionals who are equipped with the Certification in IT Business Continuity Management (CITBCM) would definitely give added assurance and confidence to their employers.

"We support the CITBCM programme for its processes in raising the standards of our IT profession. As a benchmark for those in the industry, the certification process is a means for our professionals to keep their competencies in check. Yardsticks such as these give our customers the assurance of quality and proficiency as they entrust their business IT operations to us," said Mr Chia Wee Boon, Chief Executive Officer of NCS.

The Central Provident Fund Board has sent four of its staff for the pilot round of certification, signalling a strong commitment to the programme. The selected professionals have since attained the CITBCM (Senior) titles.

"The certification adds value to our organisation as we are now assured of our staff's competency and capability to plan, implement and execute Business Continuity Management programmes for our IT systems and services," said Ms Tan Swee Hua, the Board's Chief Information Officer. She plans to send more of her staff for certification subsequently as the board expands its team with new staff.

However, the journey is just beginning for certified professionals. Far-sighted companies such as the CPF Board, have in place, plans and opportunities for certified professionals to expand their career development horizons and scope. "The Board is aiming to attain the SS540 Singapore Standard for Business Continuity Management. Now that I have attained my CITBCM certification, I would be able to participate and drive this project as part of the Board's Business Continuity Planning Committee", quipped Ms Yang Ai Ling, Principal IT Consultant and certified CITBCM (Senior) in the CPF Board.

The certification is managed by SCS and supported by the Infocomm Development Authority of Singapore. For more information and to register for the CITBCM certification, companies and professionals can check out www.scs.org.sg/CITBCM/.

TAKING THE LEAP

It's hard work for today's busy professionals to go through the rigours of attaining accreditation. A Business Continuity Consultant in NCS, 36 year-old Lim Chin Yong, is one of the first to take up the CITBCM. We get up-close and personal with him to find out why!

How did you hear about this certification?

I first read about this through one of the SCS newsletters. I also heard about the certification through my company's learning and development department, which encourages staff to apply for industry recognised certification such as CITBCM.

Why take up this certification?

The certification allows me to be accredited for my professional work in various areas. Existing certifications in the industry only focus on the business function aspects of Business Continuity Management. CITBCM is unique as it covers IT Disaster Recovery and Data Centre domains as well. The knowledge is therefore more comprehensive and better suited for real-world organisational needs.

What does it take to prepare for the certification?

As the certification is experience-based, I had to compile a dossier about my professional experiences, competencies in BCM, ITDR and DC domains in the form of a Competency Experience Summary Report. It took me about a couple of days to put everything together.

So...what are some of the best things you have learnt?

That it's important for BCM professionals to have a good grasp in ensuring business continuity through the resilience of IT systems and its infrastructure. Likewise, a professional in ITDR or Data Centre operation should also have some level of BCM competency.

I also find that it's good that CITBCM holders are required to update and recertify their qualification every five years. This would ensure that the holder is constantly updated with the latest developments in Business Continuity and maintain a high standard of competency.

How does this certification help you in your current work?

I put more thought into resiliency planning now. The understanding of the three domains allow me to better appreciate how IT and Data Centre operations in today's business world can considerably affect BCM.

What advice would you give to those who are considering the certification?

Look beyond just the skill-sets. Take up this certification, as once you are a CITBCM holder, you will become a member in the SCS-Business Continuity Group Chapter. This means you can have the opportunity to network with peers with a common interest, and have access to relevant activities and events!

“Looking bright but have you got IT right?”



With these National Infocomm Competency Framework (NICF) – aligned courses, prepare for certification with courses accredited by the Singapore Workforce Development Agency (WDA).

Up to 70% WDA Funding available!

Preparatory Course for Certification in IT Business Continuity Management (CITBCM)

Build a strong foundation with this integrated approach to BCM, including Data Centre risks and IT Recovery.

15 CFC

Preparatory Course for Certification in IT Project Management (CITPM)

The only IT-focused programme that prepares for certification with the Singapore Computer Society (SCS).

39 FDU

Preparatory Course for Certification in Outsourcing Management for IT (COMIT)

Prepare for certification with a strong skill set to effectively manage outsourcing.

45 FDU

5 CFC

Programme for IT Outsourcing Management for Practitioners (ITOP)

For professionals with > 3 years of experience: Benefit from the intensive programme with case-based workshops and experience-sharing sessions.

22.5 FDU

5 CFC

Visit <http://www.iss.nus.edu.sg> for details.
Or contact Pang Zhi Han at 6601 1167 or isspzh@nus.edu.sg

IJIT: A FRESH NEW LOOK!

The SCS International Journal of Information Technology (IJIT) website has been revamped, refreshed and refined with a new look and additional contents, such as special issue guides.

In order to keep up with the changing needs of our members and to continue providing quality articles, the SCS IJIT is pleased to release its first two special issues on 'Human Centered Computing' and 'Future Learning Environment'. Do look out for our upcoming application-oriented articles where we will be featuring the latest research and breakthroughs of key technology players.

The Society would like to express its deep appreciation to Dr Miao Chunyan, the new Chief Editor of IJIT and her team in ensuring that the online journal remains relevant and appealing to readers.

Special thanks also go to Dr Robert Gay and Professor Stanislaw Jarzabek for their advice and support.

Please visit the new website at <http://www.intjit.org/> and forward your feedback or comments to SCS at scs.secretariat@scs.org.sg.

EDITORIAL BOARD

EDITOR IN CHIEF	Chunyan MIAO School of Computer Engineering Division of Information Systems Nanyang Technological University
FOUNDING EDITOR	Dr Robert GAY

MANAGING EDITORS

Stanislaw JARZABEK	Department of Computer Science School of Computing National University of Singapore
Yuan MIAO	Executive Editor School of Engineering and Science Victoria University
Murali DAMODARAN	Department of Mechanical Engineering Indian Institute of Technology, Gandhinagar
Douglas Antony FINNIGAN	School of Information Technology Temasek Polytechnic
Guangbin HUANG	School of Electrical & Electronic Engineering Nanyang Technological University
Pelly PERIASAMY	Nanyang Business School IT & Operations Management Division Nanyang Technological University
Kok Liu TAO	Department of Information Systems Nanyang Polytechnic
Kin-choong YOW	School of Computer Engineering Nanyang Technological University

INTERNATIONAL EDITORS

Tommy W. S. CHOW	Department of Electronic Engineering City University of Hong Kong
Suash DEB	Department of Computer Science National Institute of Science & Technology
Guozhu DONG	Department of Computer Science and Engineering Wright State University
Elena FERRARI	Dipartimento di Scienze Chimiche Fisiche e Matematiche University of Insubria
Victor GOVINDASWAMY	Computer Science Texas A&M University
N. JAISANKAR	School of Computing Sciences VIT University
Shahram LATIFI	Howard Hughes College of Engineering University of Nevada
Alok MISHRA	Department of Computer & Software Engineering Atilim University
Deepak Laxmi NARASIMHA	Faculty of Computer Science and Information Technology Department of Software Engineering University of Malaya
Maria E ORLOWSKA	School of Information Technology & Electrical Engineering Division of Information Systems The University of Queensland
Nitin UPADHYAY	Birla Institute of Science & Technology BITS-Pilani, GOA Campus

BANKING IT

Industry experts discuss the importance of IT in the finance and banking sectors.

The second SCS Student Chapter's Dialogue Tea Session with industry leaders was jointly organised by the Singapore Computer Society (SCS) and Nanyang Technological University (NTU) Computer Engineering Club (CEC). Filling in the role of guest speaker for the session was Mr Warren Sperry, Director of Information Technology (IT) at Barclays Capital, while Associate Professor Quek Hiok Chai, Vice Chair of NTU School of Computer Engineering (SCE), Mr Alphonsus Pang, President of SCS, Mr Gavin Ang, Chairman of SCS Student Chapter and guests from IDA and SCS Student Chapter were among those who attended the session.

Starting off with a welcome speech by Zhang Ge, Vice President of CEC and a welcome address by Mr Pang, the topic of discussion for the session was centered upon the critical role of IT in the finance and banking sector. Mr Sperry spoke about the differences between retail and investment banking, the job scope and division within the Barclays Capital IT department, and the important role of IT in the industry. By providing examples on how IT can provide solutions to various problems that the sector has faced and could face in the future, he stressed that IT is indeed an

area which is critical to many jobs, including banking.

The clicker system was used to gather responses from the audience during the dialogue session where Mr Sperry asked about the kind of jobs within the banking sector that students were interested in and the drawbacks of a career in the industry. The responses indicated a large interest in the position of a business analyst, with key concerns regarding the work-life balance of those in the industry.

During the question-and-answer segment, the audience raised issues such as the future of IT and its role in the recent economic crisis, together with some technical issues. All these were then clarified by Mr Sperry, who spoke based on his experiences in the industry.

The session ended with a closing address by Mr Gavin Ang, who emphasised the importance of student involvement in IT and IT-related events on a national level. All who attended left the session with valuable insights on the involvement of IT in the finance and banking sectors.



1 Warren Sperry in Q & A session 2 Closing Address by Mr Gavin Ng. 3 Networking Session with Mr Warren Sperry. 4 Mr Alphonsus Pang (middle) with NTU Student Chapter.

Part of NIC

the future is information
BETA PLAYER

NATIONAL
INFOCOMM
COMPETITION

Splash Awards 2011

Mobile . Heritage

www.splashaward.com

Splash Awards 2011 seeks to encourage the development of innovative heritage-based or inspired mobile applications for platforms such as Android, Blackberry, iOS iPhone/iPad, Symbian and Windows Phone. The challenge will be based on one of the two broad topics.

The first topic focuses on mobile applications that function as learning/guiding aids for students and tourists based on the National Heritage Board's Heritage Trails, National Museums and/or National Monuments.

The second topic focuses on mobile applications that contribute towards making the learning of heritage a more fun and enjoyable experience based on Singapore's history and/or the Ministry of Education's history curriculum.

Categories

The Competition is open to individuals or teams of not more than three students per team from local and international schools in accordance to the following three categories:

Institute of Higher Learning

Students currently enrolled in full-time courses in any universities, polytechnics, ITEs or any equivalent educational institutions recognised by the Organisers.

Junior College

Students currently enrolled in junior colleges.

Secondary School

Students currently enrolled in secondary schools.

Register now at www.splashaward.com.
Deadline for registration is **6 May 2011**.
For enquiries, please call 6226 2567.

Jointly Organised By



Title Sponsor



Our Partners



SCS INFOCOMM SURVEY 2010 - LUCKY DRAW WINNERS

Congratulations to the winners of our SCS Infocomm Survey 2010 Lucky Draw! We would also like to thank the participants of the survey for their overwhelming response. Your participation plays a vital role towards configuring better programmes that can help our fellow ICT professionals, as well as the industry at large. SCS will be donating \$2 to the Handicaps Welfare Association for every survey returned from fellow infocomm professionals.

Commissioned by SCS, and administered by our key partners, Accenture, the Information Management Research Center, Nanyang Business School of Nanyang Technological University, the survey seeks to understand the needs and issues concerning Infocomm professionals and serves as a guide for SCS and government agencies in shaping their Infocomm policies and strategies. The Infocomm Development Authority (IDA) and Workforce Development Authority (WDA) are the supporting organisations for this survey.

We would like to thank and acknowledge Bintan Resorts International, Dell Inc (Singapore Branch Office), Hewlett-Packard Singapore (Sales), Lenovo (Singapore) and Microsoft Singapore for their generous sponsorship of the prizes.

Prizes	Winners
Dell Streak worth US\$599	Michael Chong Kien Keong
3D2N Stay at Nirwana Resort Hotel	Fuan Poh Wai
3D2N Stay at Nirwana Beach Club	Lim Xin Yi
HP Minibook Model 110-1111TU	Loh Teng Joo
Lenovo A300 IdeaCentre	Paul Chan Yao Zhu
Microsoft Office 2010 Home Edition	Tan Si Hao



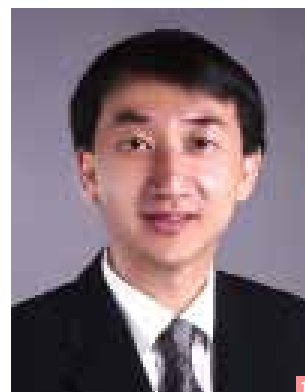
CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEW FELLOWS!

Every year, the SCS confers Fellowship to a few outstanding senior members. These individuals have made notable contributions which are recognised as positive influences within the ICT community, and have established a reputation of eminence or authority in the field of IT.

We are pleased to announce the following individuals who have been conferred Fellows of SCS:

- NG BENG LIM**
MINISTRY OF LAW
- STEPHEN YEO**
BRITISH TELECOM GLOBAL SERVICE
- THAM AI CHYN**
SINGAPORE INSTITUTE OF MANAGEMENT
- DR KWONG YUK WAH**
NATIONAL TRADES UNION CONGRESS

Congratulations to our four new Fellows!





Be Part of The SCS Family

Being a member of SCS opens doors to great opportunities that will help you keep tabs on the latest technology, learn and adopt best practices and build up professional ties by networking. You'll get to enjoy:

1. Professional Recognition and Development

With a membership of more than 23,000, SCS is a premier professional organisation for Infocomm practitioners and users. You may use the professional credential after your name.

- Fellow (FSCS)
- Senior (SMSCS)
- Ordinary (MSCS)
- Associate (AMSCS)

Your membership extends beyond Singapore as well, thanks to reciprocal membership agreements with numerous esteemed organisations. Enjoy favourable rates at these reciprocal overseas computer societies:

- Australian Computer Society
- Association for Computing Machinery
- British Computer Society
- Canadian Information Processing Society
- Computer Society of India
- Communications Society of IEEE
- Hong Kong Computer Society
- Malaysian Computer Confederation
- New Zealand Computer Society

2. Exclusive Networking Events

Enjoy special rates or FREE registration to these exclusive events that provide ample opportunities for you to interact with like-minded specialists and form business alliances and partnerships:

- SCS Business Leadership Seminars
- SCS Gala Dinner and IT Leader Awards
- SCS Golf Day, SCS Bowling and Paintball Tournaments
- Red-spot events, Business Networking Evenings, Member Rapport Nights, Movie Nights and many more...
- SCS supported events, seminars and conferences

Note:

Red-Spot events are marked with the graphic as shown at the right-hand corner, and SCS members can use up to \$50 worth of vouchers for redemption. For details, please contact Membership Department at 6226 2567 ext. 11/10/12.

3. Gain and Share Best Practices

Pick up best practices and techniques by participating in the Technology / Industry Chapters and Interest Groups. Tap on the society's established network to get more knowledge on how to harness IT applications and services.

- Business Continuity Group
- Certified IT Project Managers Chapter
- Interactive Digital Media Chapter
- Quality Assurance Chapter
- Wireless Chapter
- Young Professionals Chapter
- Enterprise Cloud Computing Special Interest Group
- Open Source Software for Innovation and Collaboration Special Interest Group **NEW**
- Web 2.0 Special Interest Group
- Supply Chain Management Special Interest Group

4. Special Discounts on Courses and Workshops

Fuel your thirst for lifelong learning or simply to satisfy your interest by taking advantage of our discounted prices on a wide variety of courses and workshops.

5. Information and Resources

Receive quarterly print publication, **the IT Society** magazine, delivered to your doorstep absolutely free! You also get free online publications and the **International Journal of IT** to stay current on the latest technologies.

Get the print copy at \$18 for CITPM and COMIT Body of Knowledge.

BODY OF KNOWLEDGE (BOK)

MODULES	UNIT PRICE (S\$) *	
	ONLINE ACCESS	PRINTED COPY
CITPM BOK	-	18.00
COMIT BOK	-	18.00
CITPM & COMIT BOK	30.00	30.00

* Price is inclusive of 7% GST

6. Career Opportunities

If you are excited by the direction that the Infocomm industry is heading and wish to see your potential flourish in a high-tech environment, SCS is here to help. Log on to [Jobs Spotlight](#) to view the latest job openings.

7. Other Member Services

- **Email Forwarding Service** offers you the prestige and convenience of being reachable via the Society. Your SCS email address will take the form of yourname@scs.org.sg. Email your request to scs.secretariat@scs.org.sg.
- Receive monthly e-newsletter on the Society's latest announcements and events. Update your email address at www.scs.org.sg/update.php to stay connected.

8. Exclusive Perks and Privileges for SCS Members!

Get more rewards as a SCS member. Simply flash your membership card to enjoy attractive discounts and offers.

- 15% discount on MicronDR Professional Data Recovery Services
- 10% - 15% discount on Raffles HealthScreeners and Thomson Medical Health Screening Packages
- 10 - 20% discount on selected productions by Singapore Repertory Theatre and Singapore Dance Theatre Productions
- Starhub offers for corporate rates and latest deals on mobile and broadband plans
- Promotional rates on resort stays and golf games at the Bintan Resorts
- Special promotions for IT gadgets, computer accessories, home appliances, audio-visual equipment and many more...

Singapore Computer Society and its chapters are now in Facebook! Join the communities today!



2011

<h2>Apr</h2>	<h3>13 Apr</h3> <p>Student Chapter: Site Visit to Red Hat 8 Shenton Way #10-00</p>	<h3>19 Apr</h3> <p>Preview Session on CITBCM: Importance of Developing & Managing IT BCM with a Holistic Set of Competencies SCS Resource Centre</p>			
<h2>May</h2>	<h3>1 May</h3> <p>CITPM Enrolment COMIT Enrolment CITBCM Enrolment</p>	<h3>21 May</h3> <p>SCS Bowling Tournament 2011 SuperBowl (Mount Faber)</p>	<h3>28 May</h3> <p>Business Leadership Seminar SMU</p>	<h3>30 May</h3> <p>SCS IT Law Seminar - Intellectual Property Laws on the Internet SMU, School of Information Systems, Seminar Room 3.2</p>	<h3>May</h3> <p>SCS Business Networking Night <i>Check out the website for event details</i></p>
<h2>Jun</h2>	<h3>Jun</h3> <p>SCS Member Movie Night Golden Village VivoCity <i>Check out the website for event details</i></p>		<h3>29-30 Jun</h3> <p>SCS IT Law Seminar - Fundamental Elements of IT Contracts SMU, School of Information Systems, Seminar Room 3.2</p>		
<h2>Jul</h2>	<h3>7 Jul</h3> <p>SCS Professional Development Forum SMU, Conference Hall 1 Admin Building</p>		<h3>22 Jul</h3> <p>SCS Golf Day Orchid Country Club</p>		
<h2>Aug</h2>	<h3>19 Aug</h3> <p>CITBCM Preview Session SCS Resource Centre</p>	<h3>25 Aug</h3> <p>COMIT Preview Session SCS Resource Centre</p>	<h3>26 Aug</h3> <p>CITPM Preview Session SCS Resource Centre YP Chapter: PaintBall Troubleshooting Tournament Turf City</p>		
<h2>Sept</h2>		<h3>1 Sept</h3> <p>IT Leader Awards 2011 – Call for Nominations</p>	<h3>Sept</h3> <p>SCS Corporate Member Movie Night Golden Village VivoCity <i>Check out the website for event details</i></p>		
<h2>Nov</h2>	<h3>1 Nov</h3> <p>CITPM Enrolment COMIT Enrolment CITBCM Enrolment</p>		<h3>Nov</h3> <p>Thanksgiving Dinner <i>Check out the website for event details</i></p>		

FINAL SAY

We take a look at what ingenious solutions IT professionals around the world have come up with to better our lives!



SNAP AND SHARE WITH INSTAGRAM

If you have a fetish for snapping and sharing photos, this is one photo-sharing app that you'd definitely love. Instagram is an iPhone app that enables users to snap a photo (or take an existing photo from their phone's gallery) and transform it into works of art by enhancing it with 11 different photo effects and filters.

What's more, you can also share it on various social networks such as Facebook, Twitter, Tumblr and Flickr to connect with your friends and let them know what you think by liking and commenting on their photos. Instagram also allows you to check in to Foursquare when you post a photo with location details and follow your friends' updates as they move from place to place.



THE ULTIMATE CHAIN OF CONNECTIVITY

Now you can bid farewell to the lack of USB ports on your computer and laptops. A genius creation by Chinese design student, Gonglue Jiang, the Infinite USB Plug keeps your chain of cables connected simultaneously on an end-to-end basis, instead of relying on a single port. This endless chain of USB cable connectivity does wonders in facilitating mobile phone syncs, portable hard disk connections and even going to the extremes of a USB hub connection.

You're probably right if you're thinking of power shortages possibilities due to USB multitasking. Fret not – this shouldn't be an issue as the creator has also come up with an external power connector that joins the Infinite chain of connectivity!



THE LIKES OF GOOGLE +1

Can't get enough of the 'Like' function in Facebook? Now you can do the same with your Google search results when you sign in to your Google account! Simply click the '+1' button if you found the search result useful, or just enjoy the linked site. By doing this, users are simply giving a recommendation on the website based on relevancy.

The best part is that you can also see the links that your friends +1'd, which then lends credibility to a particular search result and helps you sift out unrelated sites with ease.



REASONS

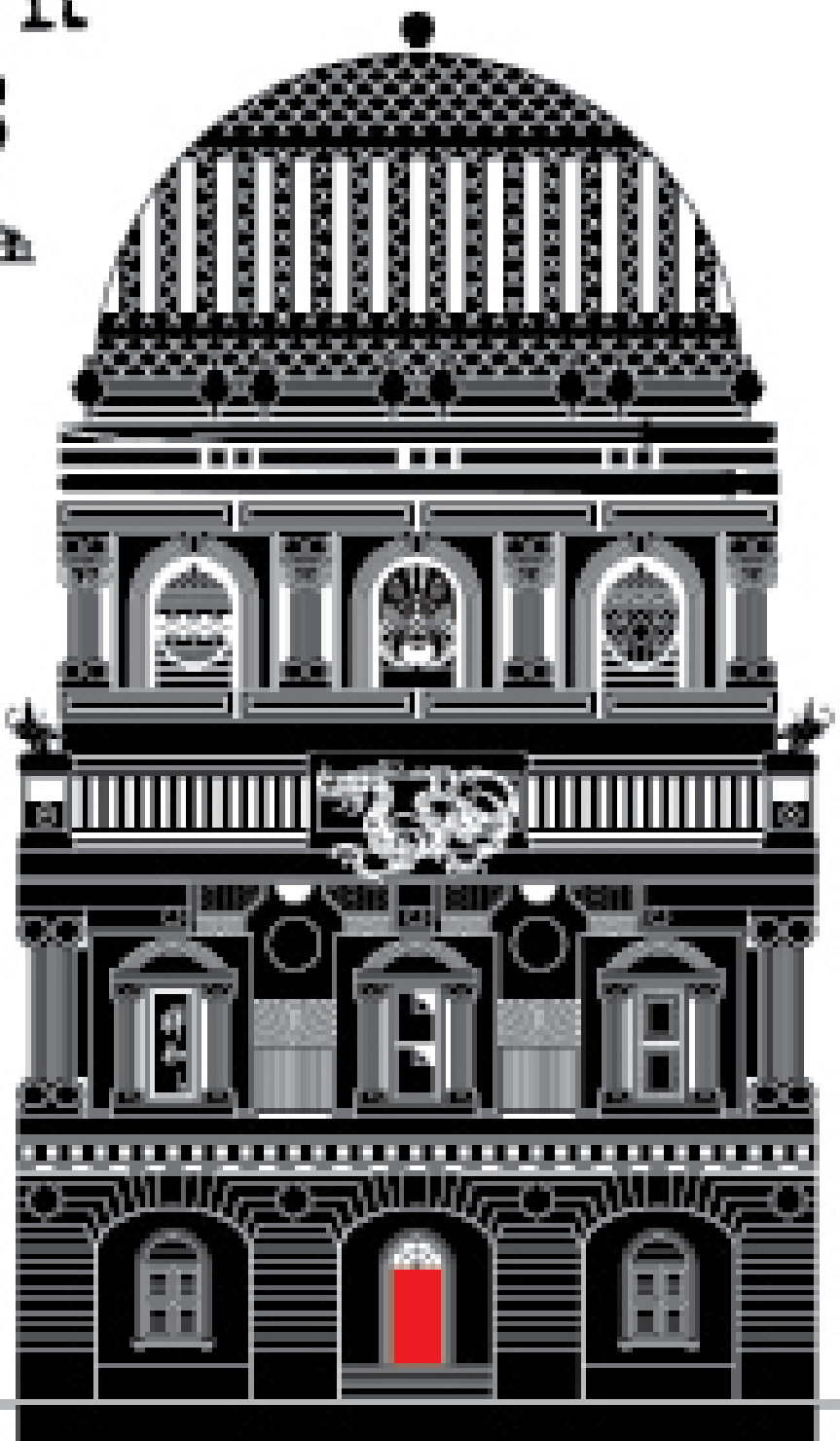
WHY YOU SHOULD VISIT OUR MUSEUMS

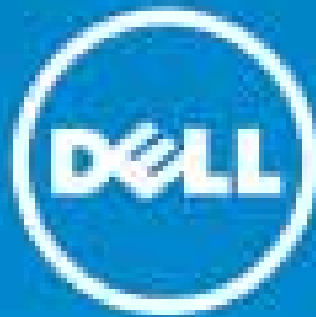


1. FREE ENTRY TO OUR 7 MUSEUMS EVERYDAY FOR LOCAL SENIORS, STUDENTS, TEACHERS AND NSPS
2. 7 OPEN HOUSE DAYS FOR EVERYONE THROUGHOUT THE YEAR
3. WE ARE OPEN 365 DAYS ALL YEAR ROUND
4. WE COVER ARTS, CULTURE, HISTORY, LIFESTYLE AND MUCH MORE
5. ADMISSION COSTS LESS THAN A MOVIE TICKET

7.000.000000
 100th CELEBRATIONS WHICH
 MARKED AT THE FORD FACTORY
 PENANGULAR MUSEUM
 NATIONAL MUSEUM OF EDUCATION
 NATIONAL MUSEUM OF SINGAPORE
 NATIONAL MUSEUM OF SINGAPORE
 NATIONAL MUSEUM OF SINGAPORE
 NATIONAL MUSEUM OF SINGAPORE

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT US AT WWW.NHB.ORG.SG





We fit the whole world into a 5-inch Screen.

The New Dell Streak



Power with
Android 2.2



Smartphones

- 5 megapixels camera with auto-focus, flash, video capture at 720p HD
- 16GB internal storage, expandable via microSD™ (up to 32GB)
- Camera software supports the following file formats: JPEG, RAW, MP4

Connectivity

- 3G HSPA+ (up to 10.8 Mbps) and Wi-Fi (802.11n) connectivity
- Bluetooth™ 2.0+EDR
- USB 2.0 (with USB On-the-go™ support)
- Support for Google™ Talk™, YouTube™, and other popular applications
- Supports 1600mAh battery with up to 10 hours of standby time

Navigation

- 3.5" capacitive touch screen with 480x800 resolution
- 16MB RAM
- Pre-installed with Google™ Maps™ and other navigation applications

All That and it's a Phone too!

With the new Dell Streak you'll get all the features of a smartphone, plus the ability to make calls and send text messages. The Dell Streak is a phone too!



Search Dell Streak for more information www.dell.com/streak

© 2010 Dell Inc. All rights reserved.