

Wateen Telecom participates PITB Information Security Conference



Wateen Telecom, Pakistan's leading communications provider, was recently invited to participate in the prestigious first ever Punjab Information Technology Board Information Security Conference. Wateen Telecom was represented at the event by its Chief Technology Officer, Mr. Faisal Sattar. The event aimed at creating awareness around information security and the challenges faced by organizations in the ever-evolving sphere of cyber security and business continuity.

The conference brought together various stakeholders from the government, industry, and academia to share their knowledge and experience and debate how to effectively combat the latest threats to Information Security. A number of prominent CIOs, Information Security Heads, researchers and professors attended the event. This conference raised awareness about information security and increasing collaboration among universities, industries and government institutions to address this important issue. Dr. Umar Saif,

Chairman PITB and Nahil Mahmood, Founder & President, Cloud Security Alliance Pakistan, were the people behind this one-of-a-kind event, which was held at the Arfa Technology Park Lahore. Commenting on the event, Mr. Faisal Sattar said, "With the rise of 'bring your own device' and commercialization of IT, Information Security should be given paramount importance by any organization in order to ensure business continuity and negating the more obvious threats of reputational damage and competitive disadvantage.



offers discounts on EVO and Nitro Cloud devices

ISLAMABAD (PPA): Pakistan Telecommunication Company Limited (PTCL) has announced discounts for its potential new customers buying EVO Cloud and Nitro Cloud devices.

Customers will have to pay monthly charges for three or four months in advance to get the discounts, in addition the devices are offered for free with such deals.

PTCL says that this new 3 months bundle packages will provide maximum flexibility to the Customer whereby user shall be offered an option to get their free cloud devices with 3 months connectivity at even more affordable upfront payment, which better suits their needs and pockets.

Best Human Capital Management Software 2012 -

A much deserved Recognition for TimeTrax HRIS

Aslam Mumtaz



Hafiz Noman, GM - EfroTech Services receiving 'Best Human Capital Management Software 2012' Award from Nisar Ahmed Khuhro, Speaker - Sindh Assembly

TimeTrax has been honored with the title of 'Best Human Capital Management Software' at 3rd Global HR Excellence Awards 2012 for its outstanding achievements and exceptional performance in IT industry, both within Pakistan and also in various countries where the solution is available through the company's Reseller Network. This award is truly an acknowledgement of the revolutionary Human Resource Information System, powered by the dynamic team of software experts at EfroTech.

As the first and only product in its arsenal, EfroTech appeared on the Information Technology map of Pakistan in 1997 with the predecessor of TimeTrax; a basic HR and Personnel Management system. There has been no looking back ever since. Building on its specialization of delivering core BPS - Business Productivity Solutions - on the web-based and SAAS/ASP models, EfroTech is regarded as a major player in the HRIS/HCMS and Supply Chain Management solutions space in this region. EfroTech is now a global software solutions supplier for numerous Fortune 500 companies, covering Afghanistan, ASEAN, Central & South Africa, India, MENA and Latin America. The footprint is growing further at a tremendous pace.

Having won this award establishes the fact that EfroTech is leading the industry through its groundbreaking ideas and sound technological know-how to develop and implement solutions for clients with enjoying rapid growth and a hunger for functionality and simplicity. With a strong team of experienced, creative and talented people, the tech gurus at 'ET' are able to transform customers' ideas into reality. Before receiving the coveted Best Human Capital Management Software Award 2012 for TimeTrax, EfroTech was also recipient of the Brand of the year Award 2011-2012 in the Software House category. Every now and then winning these awards clearly depicts the potential, promise and core competencies of the company.

Sindh Assembly Speaker Mr. Nisar Ahmed Khuhro and Ex Federal Minister for Overseas Pakistanis Dr Farooq Sattar gave away the awards at this GML event. About 50 leading companies contested for the awards. Senior executives, Management heads,

Chairmen, CEOs and HR Directors of several prominent firms were present at the event. The award winning firms were chosen by an independent jury of experts on the basis of strict criteria for evaluating performance of firms in the field of human resource development and growth. The awards are a token of recognition and honor for the companies and individuals who performed brilliantly and excelled in the field of Human Resource Management during 2011-2012.

Qualification Criteria met by TimeTrax HRIS:

- Truly Browser-based and user friendly application.

- True One-Window Solution that offers an all-in-one-place, seamless and well-integrated package of Human Capital Management Software with application modules including: Attendance, Payroll, Leave, Travel, Document, Training, Recruitment and Performance Management. Moreover Biometric hardware integration, sales, support and integration with Smartphones is a unique offering of TimeTrax in Pakistan at present.

- Integrated Business Intelligence capabilities have also been coupled with the system through a generic and proprietary dashboard application - eDashboard, which provides the information that matters the most, at the tap of a finger.

- Smartphone Ready application TimeTrax works perfectly on most models of iPad, iPhone, Android and Blackberry devices. Process, document and workflow approvals are now just a tap away.

- Global Support of the system is fast becoming a reality with EfroTech already enjoying a strong Reseller Network in 10 countries.

- Language Support is also built into the system's architecture, not only providing the system with popular 'left-to-right' European languages like French, Portuguese and Spanish; TimeTrax now also supports 'right-to-left' languages like Arabic.

- Application and Database Strength are thoroughly established, with the system handling over 150,000 employees' attendance, leave, travel, training etc. data on a daily basis and payroll worth nearly \$200 Million.

- SAAS / Subscription versions of the system allow it to be used on the Pay-As-You-Go model, encouraging system acceptance for startups and companies with a small structure, not interested in making heavy investment in hardware and software.

- Online Support Tickets are issued and customer feedback is recorded and monitored regularly to ensure that every installation and every customer enjoys maximum uptime and satisfaction.

- Installations in 25+ Countries of various modules of this robust system are a further testimony that it is a truly global Human Resource/Capital Management Software.

TimeTrax (Human Capital Management Software) is not the only product offering of EfroTech. The product range also includes an extremely robust Supply Chain Management solution - BizzTrax, which is also offered on the SAAS/Subscription model. The services portfolio also includes eMage, a creative division offering Social Media Marketing and web-presence Design and Development. 'ET' is proudly serving corporations - in 21 different verticals - in building transparency into employee productivity for the last 16 years. Building upon the confidence and satisfaction of over 600 clients across the nation and gaining success across the globe with a complete HR software suite for major industries, the domain of Human Resource Management Systems has been completely revamped with the splendor of TimeTrax - The online web-based integrated solution for Biometric Attendance, Payroll, Leave, Travel, Document, Training, Recruitment and Performance Management.

- Usable anytime from anywhere in the world.

- Generic Workflow Engine allows you to design your own document and process flows, according to your Business needs.

- Decade-long history of active usage of TimeTrax is another remarkable distinction of this highly mature product and for this very reason has been opted for by numerous Blue-chip clients and Fortune 500 companies.

- 100's of Client Recommendations on LinkedIn and through appreciation letters that TimeTrax has received over the years confirms the great confidence IT,

- Finance and HR Managers have in TimeTrax.

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Connection to Internet ...

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failed on 27 March 2013 at 6:20 UTC, leading to a widespread disruption of internet services from Egypt all the way to Pakistan.

"When submarine cables are cut, it's critically important to have access to backup paths with sufficient capacity to carry traffic to affected destinations", explains Jim Cowie, Chief Technology Officer and co-founder of Renesys. "Carrier-neutral data centres and internet exchange points play an important role in this context because this is where internet service providers can connect easily. Maintaining a presence at an internet exchange maximizes your options for re-establishing high-performance route diversity during a submarine cable outage event."

Since October 2012, the UAE-IX internet exchange in Dubai has been operating as an internet hub between Europe, Africa and Asia. Almost 20 international and regional ISPs exchange traffic here. "Higher connectivity can reduce the impact of submarine cable cuts for ISPs and their customers in the Middle East, East Africa and South Asia", says Harald Summa, CEO of DE-CIX Management GmbH, which manages UAE-IX. "When they interconnect at the UAE-IX, a more robust internet infrastructure for the entire region emerges."

Teradata National IT Excellence Awards recognize the IT Industry and Talent in Pakistan

AT Report

ISLAMABAD: Teradata Corporation, the leading data analytic solutions company, has announced the winners for 11th Teradata National Information Technology (IT) Excellence Awards at an awards ceremony held in Islamabad. Twelve Awards were given to the best of the best in the information technology industry.

Mohammad Tariq Malik, chairman National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA), and Mr. Robert Ewing, Councillor economic affairs US Embassy were chief guest and guest of honour, at the event, respectively. They recognized Teradata's efforts in encouraging IT professionals and IT development in Pakistan through the awards. They also congratulated the winners for achieving excellence in their respective fields.

Khuram Rahat, Teradata managing director for Pakistan, Afghanistan and Bangladesh, "I am very



pleased to host the 11th Teradata IT Excellence Awards and to recognize these 12 distinguished people in the IT industry at the

national level who have been instrumental in introducing, promoting and implementing IT in Pakistan."

Nominations in the 12 categories were received by independent auditors KPMG Taseer Hadi & Co. Seven judges evaluated the nominations based on the supporting documents - the compiled results were later announced by the auditors. Teradata IT Excellence awards Ms. Sofia Shahid and Ms. Nighat were the hosts for the evening. Dinner was followed by lively performances by Hadiqa Kiani and Hanif Raja.

Microsoft advances IT education in women

KARACHI (PPA): Microsoft Pakistan recently conducted DigiGirlz Camp 2013 to foster Information Technology related education among young women of Pakistan. DigiGirlz is a Microsoft Youth Spark Program which is a signature

platform to invest in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) education for young women and build a pipeline of future workers ready for the challenges of the global economy. The Microsoft DigiGirlz High Tech Camp was

developed to provide girls with a better understanding of what a career in technology is all about. This exciting experience provides high school girls with opportunities to learn about careers in technology, talk with Microsoft employees.

Helping Pakistani youth develop skills for lifetime employment

Yawar Muzammil

An estimated 103 million Pakistanis, or 63% of the population, are younger than age 25, and this number is expected to double over the next 30 years. In a landscape of endemic poverty, a literacy rate of only 53 percent among young people aged 15 to 24, and limited job opportunities, organizations like The Hunar Foundation (THF) are working to transform Pakistan's human capital into an asset for the country. Students receive vocational training at one of THF's Institutes of Excellence



Developing vocational skill programmes that enhance prospects of income generation for Pakistani youth is one of the national government's key priorities for rapid economic growth. THF's main objective is to provide young men and women with quality vocational education that meets the technical skill needs of the marketplace - leading to wage-earning capabilities for life. To accomplish the vision of "A Skilled Pakistan," THF plans to establish 35 purpose built Institutes of Excellence for student vocational training, and as many as four Teacher Training Centers over the next 10 years. The goal is to graduate at least 100,000 students during this time. Students will be trained for a variety of careers, including the electrical, plumbing, welding, and refrigeration & air conditioning vocations as well as home health care, office

administration, retail and hospitality. Of the more than 300 students who have graduated from THF so far, 75 percent are employed full time and 25 percent are engaged in internships. THF plans to identify and assist additional organizations to support replication of the Institutes of Excellence model across Pakistan. IBM's recent cash grant to THF is helping us move closer to realizing our vision. This grant came after an IBM volunteer spent time with THF students. Human resources professional

Shah Saad Moin presented THF with IBM's Activity Kits Get the Job: On Paper, In Person and Get the Job: Research & Prepare, and has mentored young students throughout the year.

Most of the students at THF are secondary school or junior college graduates (typically between the ages of 16 and 28) who have been unable to continue their formal academic education for economic reasons, lack of opportunity or lack of self-confidence. Saad's interactive sessions enthralled these young trainees and his informative presentations have gone a long way towards helping them understand the job market and assessing their skills before starting a search for employment.

THF welcomes corporate volunteers to serve as mentors to individuals or groups of students. THF also encourages

support for internal capacity building in the areas of human resource management, financial controls and reporting, quality management and assessment. The collaboration between THF and IBM is a great example of how innovative public-private partnerships can help improve the lives of young Pakistanis while strengthening the country's economy.

Muhammad Yawar Muzammil is Assistant Manager for External Engagement at The Hunar Foundation. In addition to his professional work, Yawar also volunteers time to other charity works and has helped survivors of recent earthquakes and floods in Pakistan. Prior to joining THF, Yawar was associated with financial services companies and gained valuable experience on economic and financial conditions of the country.

AsiaInfo-Linkage Solution enables China Mobile to lead TMF Excellence Awards

Monitoring Desk

BEIJING: Hot on the heels of the launch of its Veris™ product suite in Europe, AsiaInfo-Linkage (NASDAQ: ASIA), China's leading supplier of BSS systems, has had its work for China Mobile recognised in the TM Forum's Annual Excellence Awards. The company's multi-tenancy Cloud architecture underpins China Mobile Communications Corporation's shortlisting as a finalist in the Operational Excellence category in this year's Awards. China Mobile in fact leads the finalists this year, having been shortlisted in two of the four categories. The shortlisting for Operational Excellence covers AsiaInfo's implementation of its Cloud-based business support architecture, using TMF Framework initiatives, to serve the

operational requirements of China Mobile's different business units. As a result of the implementation, China Mobile - the world's largest operator by subscriber numbers - was able to both reduce existing operating costs across its business units, while smoothing the introduction of new digital services to meet the twin goals of reduced costs and increased revenues. The Cloud-based architecture was developed by AsiaInfo and its multi-tenancy approach enables a consistent platform to be deployed across operational business units while allowing for flexibility of approach within each unit. More than 700 million China Mobile customers are now supported by the Cloud platform, which was overlaid on the existing systems.

Dr. Sania Nishtar

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global health meetings and a part of organizing committees.

Sania Nishtar is a key health policy voice in Pakistan, the author of Pakistan's first health reform plan, Pakistan's first compendium of health statistics, and the country's first national public health plan for NCDs. She has the unique honour of signing three MoUs with Pakistan's Ministry of Health committing her time pro bono to write these documents. One of her books, an analysis of Pakistan's health systems became the blue print for the country's health policy. She is a member of many boards, advisory groups and task forces and a voice to catalyze change at the broader governance level in Pakistan.