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NEWS-LETTER FROM INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY,
VCE Campus, HYDERABAD-500031

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EXPERIENCE & EXPOSURE



2nd National Conference on Computer Networks & Information Security

Jan 30 - 31, 2013

Under TEQIP – II

ABOUT NCCNIS-2013 :

This National conference (NCCNIS-13) focuses on cutting-edge Technologies in Computer Networks and Information security and provides an opportunity to interact with experts in this area for better understanding of different topics. The conference provides an opportunity for young teaching faculty and students to present their work for validation

by peer review and possible publication. Special lectures on latest topics are arranged by experts from premier institutions and industries. The conference seeks papers from academia, industry, government and research organizations on Computer Networks as well as Information Security. Papers describing novel paradigms, original directions, or non-traditional perspectives are also encouraged.

BENEFITS OF NCCNIS-2013 :

This conference provides an excellent opportunity to network with IT security professionals and business leaders in Computer Networking industry. Plenty of opportunities to share ideas and to discuss the challenges facing the industry. Participants can keep up-to-date on the latest advances in the field. These sessions, essential to IT security and chosen by recognized members of academia and industry. An opportunity for faculty in engineering colleges to use the conference as a forum for exchange of innovative ideas.

It's not a faith in Technology. It's faith in people.

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“Education without values, as useful as it is, seems rather to make man a more clever devil.”

- C.S. Lewis

“Educating the mind without educating the heart is no education at all.”

- Aristotle

“Students must be taught how to think, not what to think.”

-Margaret Mead

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STUDENT COLUMN

Windows 8 vs Windows 7: 8 ways it's different

By- C.Rohith Reddy

Windows 8 is a totally new version of Windows that, in addition to the traditional desktop, also includes a new style interface for use with touchscreens whether that's on a touchscreen laptop, all-in-one PC or tablet.

And, while not all PCs will be touchscreen when Windows 8 launches, expect more and more devices to have touchscreens towards the new year - even if it's a traditional laptop.

Windows 7 was a big hit for Microsoft, turning things around from the troublesome Windows Vista and reminding people that the Redmond giant was not quite ready to hang up its hat just yet.

The Windows 8 release date is here and the challenge for Microsoft is how it builds on the success of Windows 7 and show that Windows can work on iPad-like tablets. But it still needs to dominate on laptops and desktops.

Windows 8 isn't a phone OS - but does share a great deal of design language and code with its sibling, the new Windows Phone 8. Here are 8 key differences that Windows 8 brings to the table.

1. Windows 8 touch

Obviously the most obvious difference between Windows 8 and its popular predecessor is the user interface.

Windows 7 supported touch, but it wasn't ideal - the controls simply weren't good enough. However, things have improved immeasurably in terms of the touch support in Windows 8. First of all, touch support on the Desktop is far, far better and you can even close windows and select menu items without issue - Windows has built-in intelligence to tell it what you are trying to do.

Secondly, the new Start Screen is an interface that's built for touch. That means tiles instead of menus and much quicker ways to get to the programs you want. There's also greatly improved on-screen keyboard and handwriting recognition.

You don't need to have a Windows 8 touch PC - the interface still works on non touch machines, and many trackpads have support for new Windows 8 gestures. There are also peripherals such as touch mice and trackpads from Microsoft and Logitech (among others) that support Windows 8 gestures.

2. Windows 8 Start screen

Microsoft the familiar Start menu is a Start screen which features the same kind of live tiles and data as Windows Phone's home screen, When you open an app that needs the desktop you still get the familiar Recycle Bin and Taskbar, but the Start button - which now only appears when you hover in the bottom left corner with your mouse - takes you back to the Start screen.

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The Start Screen can be used as an application launcher for desktop apps, or Windows 8 Modern UI apps (that's what Microsoft is currently calling the new interface).

3. Better multiple monitor support

Microsoft has decided that, with more of us using multiple monitors on our PCs, that it needed to overhaul its desktop management.

That means you can now have the Start Screen on one monitor and the desktop in another, or choose to have the Windows 8 Desktop and taskbar on both screens.

You can also put a different background on each screen if you have multiple monitors. Windows 8 also enables you to split screen between Modern UI Windows 8 apps, so you can have both your Windows Messenger on a third of the screen alongside your Desktop. This takes a bit of getting used to.

4. Windows 8 charms

A key arrival for Windows 8 is what Microsoft is calling Charms. These appear when you mouse to the right-hand side of the screen or swipe in from the right on a touchscreen.

They enable you to access the Start Screen on a touch device (although many touch devices will also have a physical Windows 8 button on the bezel of the screen or a Windows key on the keyboard).

The other buttons are Search, Share, Devices and Settings and provide quick access to these functions on touch and pointer-driven displays alike.

As well as searching your apps and folders, charms work across different apps, so for example a social app can tap into the Share charm so you can share files to that app quickly and easily - it's contextual to the app you are using.

The Settings charm gives you quick access to basics such as volume and brightness controls, as well as putting your PC to sleep or restarting it. The search and devices charms are fairly self explanatory, but the share charm is interesting.

5. Windows 8 Search and Social

With the Start menu gone, search is available not only through the Search charm but also through the Start Screen - just start typing and the results on screen are for programs and files.

As with Share, the Search charm is contextual, so you can search inside any app - for example you can do a web search from here, or look for a destination using the Travel app. Doing a web search is powerful and quick, it's a simple way to launch a browser and search speedily.

As for social, Windows 8 supports Facebook, LinkedIn and Twitter natively, so you can browse social updates within the People app and elsewhere.

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6. Windows 8 ARM support

Until now, Windows has only supported x86-based Intel and AMD PCs but that is all changing with Windows 8, which will support devices running on ARM architecture.

British company ARM's chip designs are being used in a growing number of devices, and Microsoft is keen to make Windows as widely available as possible - especially on cheaper Windows 8 tablets to compete with the iPad and Android tablets.

Windows 8 vs Windows RT: what's the difference?

While ARM produce the original so-called 'instruction set' for the processors used in these devices, other people manufacture the chips. So expect to see Windows 8 tablet devices based on Nvidia's Tegra 3 and Qualcomm's Snapdragon to start with.

The version of Windows 8 used on ARM-based devices is actually referred to as Windows RT - this stands for runtime. You can't buy this separately, only with a device.

7. Windows Store

Microsoft's Windows Store is a key part of Windows 8, offering both desktop and Modern UI apps, both free and paid. You can search the Store using the Search charm, as well as browse through the top free or top paid apps as well as look through apps by category.

When apps are updated, you can also download these updates very easily, just as you would on iOS or Android.

8. Windows 8 cloud integration

While Microsoft may not agree with Apple's Steve Jobs that we are in a post-PC era, it is clear that they are keen to make cloud integration central to Windows 8. That means the potential to sync data to SkyDrive - there's a SkyDrive app as well as the ability to save data to and from your cloud storage. Office 2013 apps have SkyDrive capabilities included, too.

Microsoft also syncs settings your Windows 8 PCs - including your browsing history in IE, for instance. Photos can also be shared across multiple PCs.



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How Do Websites Know What You Want? By-Diviteja.G

Your buying preferences on the Web are judiciously recorded and fed in to arrays of complex algorithms to 'offer' you products you're most likely to purchase.

It's late at night and you're bored. The television is devoid of entertainment- fairly typical. You're in the mood for a movie anyway. This latest one has great reviews but you're still not sure if it lives up to your high standards, so you call a friend who watched it recently. Once it passes the litmus test, you head online and purchase the movie. The movie is engaging and you have a wonderful time.

How is this relevant to your online experience? Online services like Amazon and Netflix make a living acting as your friends, ostensibly helping you out by recommending things to purchase along the way. Even when you purchase the movie, your information is stored and processed to be served as recommendations to you and even others. The better their recommendations, the more you're likely to follow their recommendations and purchase the product (at least in theory). In any case, your overall online experience is enhanced and you're pleased with their astute inferences.

This innocuous recommendation feature is in reality powered by sophisticated algorithms and data crunching machines which reside in Amazon's data centers. Companies spend a large amount of time constantly refining these algorithms.

There are various ways one might implement this algorithm. Companies might examine users who are similar to you and use this information to serve you recommendations. They might decide to identify similar or correlated items.

One popular **algorithm** to match similar items (very basic and naive) is outlined below:

```
for each item I1
for each customer C who bought I1
for each I2 bought by some customer C
record purchase C{I1, I2}
for each item I2
calculate similarity(I1, I2)
return table
```

Basically, items that a particular customer bought together are stored in a table. This is done for all items, and this information is used to calculate a similarity rating to match similar items. Similarity is calculated using the resultant item vectors (I1 and I2 for example) and algorithms like the cosine similarity algorithm take these vectors as inputs to produce a similarity rating. Billions of records are thus processed. All the complicated and heavy processing is done in data centers. When you click on a item, Amazon refers to these tables (this is a relatively fast operation; the building of these tables is the slow part) to determine which items to recommend to you.

It's interesting how such seemingly simple "customer's who bought this also bought this" feature is backed by so much research and complexity. In a world where customer attention is king, every competitive advantage counts.

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GADGET CORNER

-Rohith Reddy.C

Track Your Eating With Smart 'Hapifork'

We now have everything from smartphone apps to Internet-connected scales to help us stay on track with fitness goals, but what about utensils?

A Hong Kong-based company known as Hapilabs is here at CES to introduce the Hapifork, an electronic fork that will monitor your eating habits and tell you when you might want to take a breather with that pasta dish.



The Hapifork includes indicator lights that will flash when you're eating too fast. Sensors within the device will measure how long it took you to eat a meal, how many times you put food in your mouth per minute, and the intervals between those "fork servings."

All the data is uploaded via USB or Bluetooth to an online profile, where you can track progress. There's also an app and coaching program to help you "eat better and change your eating behavior".

The Hapifork was originally developed for clinical and medical use, the company said. Now, the company is bringing it to consumers in order to promote slower, more mindful eating. The company pointed to stats that suggest eating too fast can lead to weight gain, digestive problems, gastric reflux, and postoperative complications.

The fork weighs in at 0.14 pounds and is 7.87 inches tall and one-inch thick. It includes a micro-USB connector, runs a lithium polymer battery and a Microchip Cortex M3 ST Micro electronic chip.

Of course, one might argue that many of the most unhealthy (and yet tasty) food options we might overconsume - from pizza and french fries to potato chips and nachos - are eaten with our fingers and would, therefore, avoid the Smart Fork judgment. But it appears the Hapifork focuses on larger meals and the speed with which you normally eat rather than the nutritional benefit of the food you're actually consuming.

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Hapilabs will also offer a Hapitrack activity tracker , which measures steps, distance, workout time, calories burned in real time and motivates you to reach your daily objectives. It will also come in several colors.

Once you have your eating schedule under control, there are a number of new options for how to monitor your activity and weight. Digital fitness and health company Fitbit today announced a new activity tracker to its lineup, a wristband that will sync via Bluetooth 4.0 to iOS devices and select Android devices, as well as PCs and Macs, called Fitbit Flex.

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