TAG-ITI

Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Information Technology International

Newsletter

DECEMBER 2017 | ISSUE 18

Abu-Ghazaleh: ASREN and TAIEX to support SESAME users in Jordan

TAG-KS and Institute of Public Administration Sign Cooperation Agreement

Researchers at MIT use TV to Train Computers to Predict Human Behavior

Why 2018 will be the year of the WAN

IN THIS ISSUE

TAG-ITI

Abu-Ghazaleh: ASREN and TAIEX to support SESAME users in Jordan

Amman - Under the Patronage of H.E. Dr. Khaled Toukan, Director of SESAME and Chairman of the Jordan Atomic Energy Commission (JAEC), and with the Support and funding a of the Technical Assistance and Sponsors Information Exchange instrument of the European Commission (TAIEX), and in cooperation with the SESAME Jordanian National Committee (SJNC), the Arab States Research and Education Network (ASREN) and the Synchrotron-light for Experimental Science and Applications in the Middle East (SESAME) successfully conducted a workshop for Jordanian SESAME users in Amman.

The main objective was to promote SESAME and provide valuable opportunities by European Synchrotron Sources to Jordanian users. More than 100 active scientists and researchers from various Jordanian universities and research organizations attended this workshop. Participants showed great interest in utilizing SESAME and highlighted the essentiality of having ASREN and GEANT connectivity as research enabling tools.

The scientific program of the workshop covered topics in Current states of SESAME Synchrotron, SESAME Computational Facilities and Links and Research opportunities and applications using the XAFS/XRF Beamline, IR Beamline and MS Beamline, as well as infrastructure research and capacity building opportunities.

In the opening session, H.E. Dr. Khaled Toukan welcomed the attendees and encouraged them to focus on the workshop sessions pointing out that is a unique opportunity to develop their scientific research activities, to learn from each other and exchange experience with the European users participating in the workshop.

Dr. Abdul-Halim WRIEKAT, Chairman of the Jordanian National Committees for SESAME introduced the scientific aspects of the workshop, highlighting SESAME Synchrotrons, research opportunities and applications using the beamlines namely: XAFS/XRF, IR and the Material Science (MS).

Mr. Yousef TORMAN, Director of the Pan Arab Research and Education Network (ASREN) raised awareness on the importance and necessity for establishing research and education networks at both national and regional levels to better enable collaboration between researchers and to facilitate resource sharing and access to data repositories and research communities.

Guest speakers and Synchrotron experts from Europe conducted several presentations on the use of beamlines. Jordanian SESAME users presented and discussed the latest technical developments and success stories, emphasizing the importance of computational science and other research domains.

TAG-KS and Institute of Public Administration Sign Cooperation Agreement

Amman - Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Knowledge Society (TAG-Knowledge) and the Institute of Public Administration (IPA) signed a cooperation agreement on the training of government sector employees.

On behalf of H.E. Dr. Talal Abu Ghazaleh and H.E. Mrs. Majd Shweikeh, Minister of Communications and Information Technology, Mr. Zaid Al Majali, Director of Quality Control of TAG Knowledge Societies, and Dr. Abdullah Al Qudah, Director General of IPA signed the agreement.

The agreement aims to advance cooperation in marketing, managing and conducting English language and Information Technology training courses between the two sides through international partners.

At the agreement signing ceremony, Mr. Al Qudah emphasized that this agreement comes as an actual realization of IPA's guidelines on the implementation of the participatory approach with private sector institutions and serves to achieve the sector's future strategies on development and updating of its businesses, programs and training methods in the manner that serves the requirements and needs of public sector employees according to the best quality standards.

Mr. Al Qudah shed light on the IPA's role in leveraging the efficiency and development of human resources at the level of public sector institutions, marketing IPA's experts at the local and Arab levels, as well as providing specialized consultancies on the development of national and Arab human resources and enabling them to work efficiently according to the best practices.

For his part, Al Majali stated: "We at TAG-Knowledge act in accordance with H.E. Dr. Talal's Abu Ghazaleh mission and vision dedicated to qualify the largest number of professionals, to enrich their expertise and to build their capacities in order to meet the requirements of their jobs holding the best qualifications. Indeed, this applies to employees or job seekers."

He pointed out: "TAG-Org, through TAG-Knowledge and various TAG-Org companies, targets the Arab youth in general and constantly works on the development of its training programs to keep abreast of developments. Moreover, it also cooperates with many institutions to help in the development of human resources and provide the latest tools and means in the field of information technology and communications."

The terms of the cooperation agreement include management, marketing, holding courses and providing studies and consultations inside and outside Jordan in numerous fields, such as: electronic archiving, auditing standards in the public sector, experts of international accounting standards, VAT Expert training courses and Islamic finance courses (CIMA).

In this context, a joint initiative will be launched under the title of "Training for Employment". This initiative aims at conducting research for the purpose of attaining harmonization between the requirements of the labor market and majors of university graduates, in addition to exporting Jordanian expertise and competencies overseas.

Furthermore, another joint initiative entitled "Training for Excellence" which targets public sector employees in order to stimulate them and increase their productivity. This initiative also involves collaboration in holding local, regional and international specialized conferences.

Researchers at MIT use TV to Train Computers to Predict Human Behavior

There's a lot that artificial intelligence can do, but understanding human behavior isn't one of the strong suits. A team at MIT's Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence Laboratory wants to change that.

The magic bullet? Television.

Researchers essentially turned computers into couch potatoes by feeding them hundreds of hours of footage from popular TV shows like "The Office," "Scrubs" and "Desperate Housewives," NPR reported Tuesday. Each clip ends with one of four actions: a hug, a kiss, a high five or a handshake. The computer's challenge? Predict which one is about to happen.

With the help of a learning algorithm, the artificially intelligent test subjects were able to predict the correct action 43 percent of the time, compared with 71 percent from human test subjects. Researchers hope to see that figure increase as the computers consume more and more video examples and learn to pick up patterns from them.

The long-term goal is to train Artificial Intelligence (AI) to recognize things like danger, injury or crime as they're happening or even about to happen. Breakthroughs like that are still likely a long way off. But given the project's success, MIT's researchers are optimistic that they can move us closer. At the very least, here's hoping that computers pick up the nuanced complexities of Michael Scott's "that's what she said" jokes.

Source:

http://www.cnet.com/news/researchers-at-mit-use-must-see-tv-to-train-computers-to-predict-human-behavior/

Why 2018 will be the year of the WAN

Software-defined WAN (SD-WAN) technology is sweeping across the industry, growing from an emerging technology in 2017 to become mainstream in 2018.

Research firm IDC predicts SD-WAN revenues will hit $2.3 billion in 2018, growing 69% on a compound annual growth rate to reach more than $8 billion by 2021. "2017 saw a lot of early adopters of SD-WAN that were limited to maybe two or three sites," says IDC networking analyst Brad Casemore. "Now, rollouts are getting a lot bigger; we're starting to see hockey-stick inflection point."

And experts say as SD-WAN deployments become ubiquitous for organizations with branch and remote offices, more big changes will accompany it.

"We're moving from SD-WAN 1.0 to a 2.0 phase," explains Lee Doyle of Doyle Research. SD-WAN 1.0 was all about hybrid WAN; aggregating MPLS and Internet connections to reduce bandwidth costs and increase performance. "SD-WAN 2.0 is all about multi-tenancy, improving the management and monitoring and better security." Doyle says SD-WAN 2.0 moves beyond just the WAN toward an entire software-defined branch.

What is a SD-Branch?
Doyle says WAN virtualization technology will soon mean organizations do not need branch router infrastructure. IP/VPN, firewalls and Internet connections will be aggregated into software, reducing – if not replacing – the need for hardware in the branch office. "SD-WAN vendors

are rapidly adding capabilities into the software," Doyle says.

One of the biggest trends to watch for in 2018 will be further integration of security services in SD-WAN environments, says Casemore. ZScaler and Websense are software-based security platforms that have both partnered with SD-WAN vendors including Viptela, VeloCloud, Riverbed and Talari, among others.

SD-WAN has seen the most pickup in enterprises with a lot of locations, such as banks and retail businesses. Capital One – one of the 10 largest banks in the U.S. with 45 million customer accounts – has more than 700 branch offices, each of which need a reliable Internet connection. The bank has transitioned in recent years to offer non-traditional banking centers in the form of cafés that encourage customers to browse the Internet while doing their banking. "Now, if our Wi-Fi is down, then the customer can't bank with us," says Jason Abfalter, director of technology for Capital One's retail and direct banking division. "The network needs to be always-up and secure."

This use case led Capital One to begin a massive SD-WAN deployment across the company's network. Capital One is able to segregate a reliable, multi-band Wi-Fi connection for customers from the secure traffic conducting back-end official banking duties. Abfalter says as the deployments ramp up in 2018, he's looking to further integrate security tools like URL filtering and firewall capabilities into the SD-WAN software.

Mobile backup in SD-WAN
Incorporating mobile connectivity as a backup in SD-WAN is expected to be another major advancement in the market in 2018, Doyle says. Large corporations already have data plans from a cellular provider, and in some cases they're able to pool data across the organization and use cellular connection as a backup to broadband connections in a fail-over situation. All this can be managed by SD-WAN software deployed in the branch. Doyle says as prices for LTE and 4G continue to drop, this option will become an expanded use case.

Source:
https://www.itworld.com/article/3237691/lan-wan/why-2018-will-be-the-year-of-the-wan.html

For More Information:

Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Information Technology International TAG-ITI

Tel: (0962-6) 5100900
Fax: (0962-6) 5100901

Or you may reach us electronically through our website:
TAGITI.com

And our email:
shalling@tagiti.com

This newsletter is published by:
Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Information Technology International (*TAG-ITI*)
Reproduction is permitted provided
That the source is acknowledged