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HE Dr. Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Proposes ICT Projects for the Jordanian Senate

AMMAN – HE Dr. Talal Abu-Ghazaleh held a meeting to discuss how to help transform the Jordanian Senate into a knowledge institution through the adoption of new ICT technologies to streamline its operations.

Dr. Talal Abu-Ghazaleh along with Senator Yasera Ghosheh discussed the use of ICT within the Jordanian Senate with a group of his internal ICT experts to see what projects could be launched in order for it to make better use of ICT technologies.

He came up with a number of suggested ICT improvements and directed the expert group to develop a plan of action to see this to fruition.

He said that the Jordanian Senate should be exemplary in it use of ICT technologies to conduct its work and concluded by saying that he would personally fund this initiative as a gift to the Jordanian Senate.

Central Bank of Jordan Enforces Banks to Implement COBIT 5

AMMAN- The Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) has issued a directive for Banks in Jordan to implement IT governance using COBIT 5 in order to better control IT risks.

As IT has become the core of banking operations, controlling IT risks has become paramount to ensure efficient and secure banking operation.

In order to achieve the needed assurance, the CBJ has decided that it is mandatory for Banks to implement the COBIT 5 governance framework from ISACA, a world renowned IT governance body.

"This initiative, which is expecting all Banks to implement COBIT 5 over a period of 3 years, will result in leveraging the maturity of the Banks governance and risk management practices which would collectively bring lots of benefits for the Banks." said TAGITI Amman Manager, Mr. Berj Vartanian.

He went onto say "We hope to work with many Banks in Jordan to help them achieve this as our track record in IT governance implementation is very good. COBIT 5 presents a single integrated framework that can perfectly work with all exiting standards and frameworks. It is supported by a complete set of enablers and tools to make its adoption effective and efficient."

COBIT 5 can be used for the establishment of Governance of Enterprise IT, IT Strategy, IT Risk Management\Assessment, as well as used to measure IT effectiveness, compliance management amongst others.

All these activities are needed in the Jordanian Banking sector as IT has become the building block upon which modern Banking is conducted.

How much can a fiber carry? Facebook and Nokia are pushing it

An experimental technology from Nokia could expand a submarine cable's capacity by 2.5 times.

Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg has said VR is the future of social media. If it is, then the networks that link consumers and data centers will have more data than ever to carry. Higher resolution video also is increasing the burden on networks. For example, Netflix recommends subscribers have at least a 5Mbps broadband connection to stream HD video and 25 Mbps for Ultra HD (4K) streams.

The good thing about fiber-optic networks is that new equipment on each end of a link can boost its capacity far beyond what was available when the cable was laid. Nokia recently tested new technology on a pair of fibers Facebook uses on the AEConnect cable across the Atlantic. It increased the capacity of that fiber pair by about 2.5 times.

Facebook's fibers can carry about 13Tbps (bits per second) now. With the experimental technology they recently tested, the fibers could carry 32Tbps, said Kyle Hollasch, Nokia's director of marketing for optical networking. The companies say this is a record.

The new technique, called PCS (probabilistic constellation shaping), gives the network more flexibility to get the most performance out of a particular fiber.

"Every fiber in the ground, everywhere in the world, is different," he said. Its ability to carry data depends on how long it is, the characteristics of the glass it's made of, and other factors.

To send data over that fiber most efficiently, the network needs different settings, like gears, to adjust for those differences. Current equipment has just a few of these "gears" at most. PCS changes that equation because it's like a continuously variable transmission, so it can adjust the network precisely to best use any fiber, Hollasch said.

PCS should be available for installation in fiber networks in three years, according to Nokia. But the company is already making its equipment more efficient, with commercially available gear today that could increase the current connection by about one-third to 17Tbps.

For Facebook, which has invested in several submarine cables and bought fibers on others, higher efficiency is just good business.

"Facebook pays the same for this cable regardless of how much data they put on it. So they might as well put as much as they can," Hollasch said.

Source:
http://www.itworld.com/article/3183724/internet/how-much-can-a-fiber-carry-facebook-and-nokia-are-pushing-it.html

Google to ship Project Soli gesture development kits later this year

Google will start shipping development kits for its Project Soli wireless gesture recognition technology later this year.

Project Soli involves a millimeter-wave radar chip that can detect "very fine" gestures with fingers and hands. It can then be used for playing games using hand gestures on mobile devices, computers, and electronics.

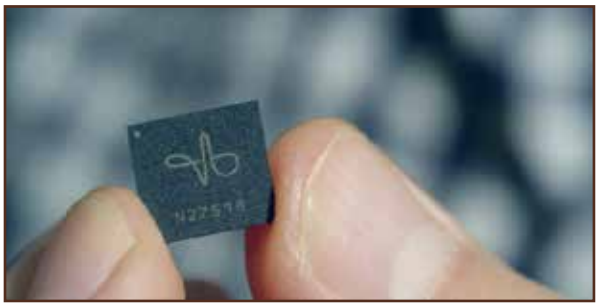
The technology has the potential to get rid of controllers and input devices. Its biggest impact could be in virtual and augmented reality. When using VR headsets, users now need to hold controllers, but Project Soli could allow hand gesture movement to define how a user roams a virtual world.

The chip is so tiny that Google has put it in devices as small as smartwatches. It was jointly developed by Google with Infineon, which has said the technology will be jointly marketed by both companies later this year.

An announcement about the development kit was made at the recent Game Developer Conference.

The goal for the developer kit is to discover new uses for the technology. Initially, Google is targeting Project Soli at game control using hand gestures. A demo showed a user flicking fingers on a device containing the Project Soli chip, and the finger movement controlled a character running on a screen. The quicker the fingers flicked, the faster the character ran. By moving the hand up or down, the character could jump over trees.

One group at the University of St. Andrews in the U.K. used the technology to recognize



materials based on weight and other characteristics. For example, it could detect copper, plastic, and other materials.

Project Soli could be transformative technology and be used in applications beyond gaming, Aaron Cammarata, technical project lead at the Google Advanced Technology and Projects group (ATAP), said in a video posted on YouTube.

The radar technology is highly reliable, and the response is quick because it uses millimeter-wave technology.

Google ATAP is leading the project and works on technology that is then used in commercial products. One of its big flops was Project Ara, a modular smartphone that was scrapped by Google. ATAP also developed Tango, an augmented reality platform that is now part of Lenovo's Phab 2 Pro smartphone.

Later this year, Levi's will ship clothes with touch and gesture interactivity stitched into the fabric, and that functionality was developed as part of Google ATAP's Project Jacquard.

Source:
http://www.itworld.com/article/3181751/software-games/google-to-ship-project-soli-gesture-development-kits-later-this-year.html

For More Information:

Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Information Technology International TAG-ITI

Shahid Halling – 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*)