

TAG-ITI Newsletter

Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Information Technology International
The Arab Organization for Global IT Professional Services

TAG-ITI is Committed to Providing
Client-focused Innovative, High Quality
Consulting Services and IT Solutions

p1 Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Center for Capacity
Building Officially Launched

p2 New Projects Awarded to TAGITI

p2 Google's new operating system

p3 ISO27001 – The IT Security Standard

UNESCO and TAG-Org Sign Partnership Agreement



Both parties will work together on building inclusive knowledge societies and promoting ICT to support education

PARIS---August 11, 2009 --- The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Organization (TAG-Org), the Jordanian-based international business services company, have recently signed a partnership agreement in Paris to work together on the building of inclusive knowledge societies and on the promotion of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) to support education, science and culture in the Arab region.

The agreement reflects the commitment of both TAG-Org and UNESCO to mobilize partners to build

Arab knowledge societies, notably by increasing access to and measuring the use of ICT in different sectors of society, enhancing teacher training, and promoting Internet Domain Names in the Arabic script.

"The World Summit on the Information Society underscored the importance of a multi-stakeholder approach to helping people use the power of ICTs, to access the knowledge they need to improve their daily lives, and to achieve their full potential. UNESCO relies upon and welcomes partners such as TAG-Org to realize the vision of knowledge societies," stated Mr. Abdul Waheed Khan, Assistant Director-General for Communication and Information, UNESCO.

"As the Arab region grows in importance, it is crucial to TAG-Org and its regional operations in the 71 offices worldwide, to provide a credible profile of data in Arabic and English on the state of the Arab countries on ICT in education, science, culture, communication, and commerce. The availability of such data will assist local governments, institutions, and international organizations to understand gaps in ICT and to take a leading role in

developing ICT infrastructure and in building ICT capacity and capability for sustainment in the context of the changing global environment," said Mr. Talal Abu-Ghazaleh, Founder and Chairman of TAG-Org. Such data, collected through digital surveys, digital reporting, and digital resources, will be available on a knowledge society portal created by TAG-Org in cooperation with UNESCO.

UNESCO and TAG-Org have agreed to develop an immediate action plan for the project; prepare a strategy to enhance multilingualism and internationalized Internet Domain Names; plan for implementation of UNESCO's ICT competency framework for teachers; work together to increase the availability of multilingual content on the Internet; and cooperate on a "TAG-PEDIA" project for increased local content in science and technology, literature, history, art, and many other areas.

UNESCO: www.unesco-ci.org
TAG-Org: www.tagorg.com

Press contact:
UNESCO Bureau of Public Information
Roni Amelan, ramelan@unesco.org
+33 (0)1 45 68 16 50

Roufan Nahhas,
rnahhas@tagorg.com

TAG-ORG media contact:
009626 5100 900

Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Center for Capacity Building Officially Launched



The newly established facility works on qualifying the young participants of the camp to obtain the Abu-Ghazaleh Cambridge IT Skills Certificate

AMMAN--- August 18, 2009 --- Under the patronage of HE Minister of Information and Communications Technology Mr. Basem Rousan, the Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Center for Capacity Building in the Gaza refugee camp near Jerash has been officially inaugurated today in the presence of Mr. Talal Abu-Ghazaleh, chairman and CEO of Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Organization (TAG-Org) Mr. Richard Cook, UNRWA Regional Director.

The Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Center for Capacity Building, opened in August 2008, offers the camp's residents the Abu-Ghazaleh Cambridge IT Skills Certificate program, in addition to English language skills training courses. The Center is being established as an affiliate of a larger institution called the "Gaza Camp Community Development Center" operating under the supervision of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA).

In his opening remarks, HE Rousan said that the launch of a capacity building center in Gaza Camp complements the efforts of the Ministry that seek to create knowledge development in accordance with the vision of His Majesty King Abdullah II.

He also expressed his hope that this

step will be a significant addition to the efforts of developing communities and it is considered a turning point in the lives of these communities and a new window to globalization.

"Jordan, represented by the ICT Ministry, is working hard to create a positive developmental effect on education and capacity building in the field of communication and information technology especially in areas deprived from such services," he added.

"Children and young people, whom we are meeting for their sake today, are the future agents and the most efficient and effective developmental investment, and when this category obtains the information and communication technologies through good training, this means we are helping them to progress," HE Rousan elaborated.

Mr. Abu-Ghazaleh expressed his pleasure with this launch since it contributes to the qualification of young people in learning how to master computer and language skills, which are deemed basic requirements for the labor market.

"I believe that all the support provided by TAG-Org is part of its social responsibility towards the society," Mr. Abu-Ghazaleh said.

"This is only the start and I hope this project will move to other Palestinians living in refugee camps," he added.

In addition, Mr. Abu-Ghazaleh announced the projects of TAG-Org to serve the Arab society in the fields of Information and Communication Technology which include the following: Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Knowledge Society, Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Refurbished Computers Center, Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Encyclopedia (TAG-Pedia), Merging Information and Communication Technology into Education initiative.

In respect of TAG Refurbished Computers Center, established in cooperation with the UNRWA in Gaza Camp-Jerash, a hall has been set up to refurbish computers and build local capacities through training of newly Gaza Camp graduates. Moreover, new or used computers will be presented as a grant to schools in the camp and middle-income groups through the 12/500 initiative.

Meanwhile, Mr. Cook commended the role of TAG-Org in making this possible. "TAG-Org has set an excellent example of corporate social responsibility applied to sustainable community development. This has complemented and strengthened the existing community development program of UNRWA, as well as reinforced the core mandate of the Agency to meet the human development needs of the Palestinian refugee community in Jordan," Mr. Cook stated.

"This initiative will not only benefit this camp, but it is a unique situation here; there's very high unemployment rate at 39% of the population and poverty levels are consequently high, with 64% living on less than \$2 per person per day," he added.

On September 1, 2008, a cooperation agreement was signed between TAG-Org and the UNRWA in order to provide a donation to equip and commission a facility for e-training in the Community Development Center in Gaza refugee camp.

The newly established facility works on qualifying the young participants of the camp to obtain the Abu-Ghazaleh Cambridge IT Skills Certificate, and conduct a training program that consists of subjects such as Introduction to Information Technology, Word Processing using MS Word, Presentations using MS PowerPoint and others in addition to English language skills and other training courses.

On the sideline of the venue, HE Rousan distributed Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Cambridge IT Skills Certificates for Gaza Camp trainers (First Class) and certificates for participants in the preparatory workshops for Gaza Camp Strategic Plan.

New Projects Awarded to TAGITI

TAG-ITI has been successful in securing many new IT projects over the last months through its various offices through the hard work and determination of its consultants. Here are the details of some of the projects that have been recently signed.

eGovernment Authority, Bahrain – ISO27001 implementation

The e-Government Authority is a large governmental organization in Bahrain providing various e-services to the population of Bahrain. TAGITI

consultants will assist the Authority to review the documentation it has in place and provide consulting services to ensure they are in compliance with the ISO27001 standard so that they may apply for certification.

SyriaTel, Syria – ISO27001 implementation

SyriaTel is a leading telecom company offering a comprehensive range of telecoms services to both the public and private sector in Syria. SyriaTel has expressed an interest to become ISO27001 certified. TAGITI will assist SyriaTel in by providing consulting services in order to help them achieve ISO27001 certification.

The Shura Council, Bahrain – Service Level Agreement Development

The Shura Council of Bahrain is a governmental entity responsible for passing laws within the Kingdom of Bahrain. The Councils has sought the

assistance of TAG-ITI to develop various SLA's for IT services to ensure its interests are fully protected and to ensure that the IT services it is being provided with are in line with industry standards.

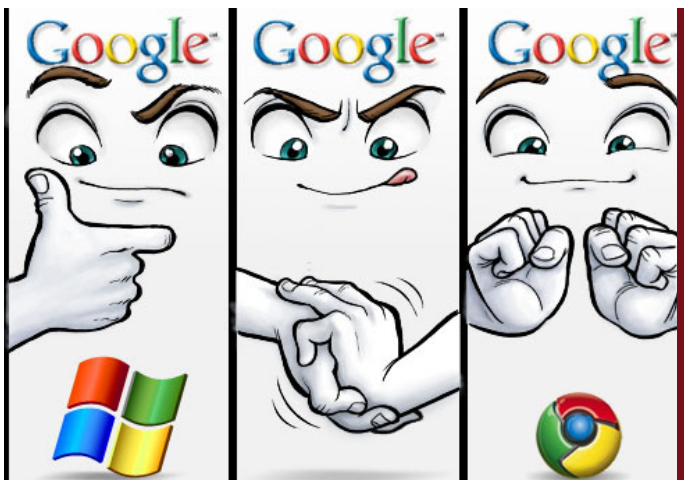
Ministry of Education, Bahrain – Website Development

The Ministry of Education in Bahrain is responsible for the provision of education services in the Kingdom. As part of its remit, it has requested TAG-ITI's assistance with the development of websites for its various departments including:

- Directorate of Private Education.
- Directorate of Materials
- Higher Education Council
- Gifted Student Center
- Directorate of Human Resources.
- Directorate of Physical Education and Scouting

Google's new operating system

With the dominance of the Windows operating systems worldwide, is there room for a new operating system? Well, Google seems to think so and is going head to head with Microsoft by launching its own operating system, called the Chrome Operating System (OS).



The Chrome OS will initially target net books (small laptop computers designed for wireless communication and access to the Internet). This comes as no surprise as Google's mobile OS, Android, is already establishing itself in this niche area. However, there is no indication of what Google is really planning in the long term, and whether it aims to really go

after Windows.

Google's developers have a great opportunity to create a new OS from scratch rather than building on existing legacy code, and they have the benefit of years of development experience from the open source community and initiatives like Linux, so we should expect something lean and mean from Google. To support this, Google has said it is planning to develop an OS that can go from boot up to web browsing within a few seconds, so it looks as though they are serious about making their OS the best.

The question is whether Google has the intention or the capacity to go beyond that, and how far into the PC market it wants to go. If Google really want to compete with Microsoft, at the very minimum, it needs to provide an OS which matches the functionality of Windows 7 which Microsoft is going to make available on the netbook devices.

Will Google succeed in their endeavour? Only time will tell, but only a company like Google would be able to make a success of such a venture against the giant Microsoft. Google is looking to new paradigms of computing, where easy access to always-on services is all that matters. Its whole strategy around Google Docs, the Chrome browser and so on, has been make the browser king and to make the Internet your desktop.

Let see how the fight continues between these two giants and who comes out on top and how the Chrome OS compares with Windows. With Google giving their OS a price of 'free', it will be interesting to see how much support it gets and where consumers put their trust.

By Shahid Halling

ISO27001 – The IT Security Standard

ISO 27001 allows Organizations to build effective security program that addresses current and future regulatory compliance requirements in a sustainable and cost-effective fashion.

History

ISO 27001 standard was published in October 2005, essentially replacing the old BS7799-2 standard. The standard sets specifications aiming to provide a model for establishing, implementing, operating, monitoring, reviewing, maintaining, and improving an Information Security Management System, ISMS.

The specifications provided by ISO 27001 are against which certification is granted. Today, over 5,600 organizations worldwide ISO 27001 certificates are in place, across the world.

ISO 27001 at a glance

Information is actually an asset that has a value to an organization and must be protected. Organizations' information's are available in many formats; information can be stored on databases, processed in computers, sent via network and emails, printed in papers and spoken orally in telephones. Ensuring the Confidentiality, Integrity and Availability (CIA) of vital information assets is very important to the survival of most organizations, and allows them to remain competitive in an increasingly information-driven age. Vital information assets may consist of intellectual property and trade secrets, various forms of internal communications, and non-public information (NPI) entrusted to the organization by customers, business partners and other third parties.

Beyond that, information security is about more, so much more than compliance, security and survival – it's about sharpening your competitive edge for battle in the information-driven age by achieving certification and accreditation.

For that purpose, ISO 27001 is developed to set specifications for the design and implementation of Information Security Management System (ISMS) that governs the security of the variant types of information assets by achieving certification and accreditation.

The design and implementation of an organization's ISMS is influenced by their needs and objectives, security requirements, regulatory obligations, the process employed, existing risks and the size and structure of the organization.

ISO 27001 is designed to ensure the selection of adequate and proportionate security controls that protect information assets and give confidence to interested parties. ISO 27001 comprises 39 control objectives containing 133 controls distributed among 11 security domains as described in Figure 1.

Each security domain deals with information security from its

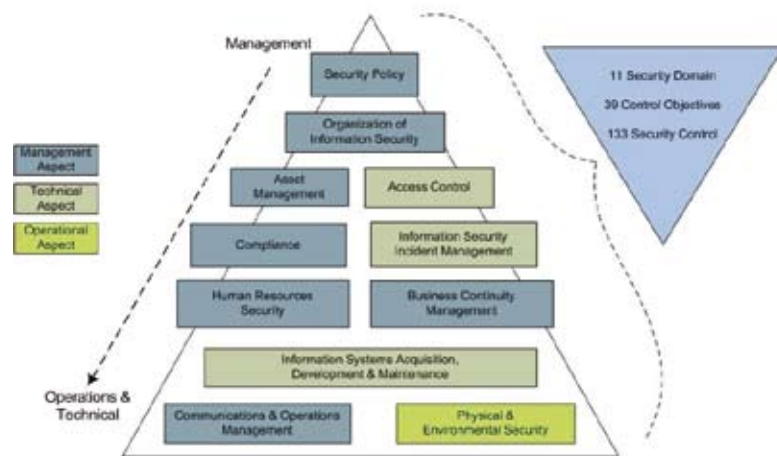


Figure 1: ISO 27001 Domains, Control Objectives & Controls

perspective; thus when the security controls are applied and control objectives are met; the 11 security domains are integrated in a way such that information assets' confidentiality, integrity and availability are protected.

Benefits of ISO 27001 based ISMS:

ISO 27001 is intended to be suitable within different types of organizations for formulating security requirements and objectives, ensuring security risks are cost effectively managed; ensuring compliance with laws and regulations, setting process framework for the implementation and management of controls that meet the required security objectives, identification and clarification of existing information security management processes; helping management in determining the status of as well as controlling information security management activities; and sustaining business continuity.

Furthermore, when an organization is certified against ISO 27001, it will definitely gain an increased credibility and reputation, increased customer satisfactions and enhanced competitive advantages.

ISO 27000 family for security standards

ISO 27001 belongs to a family of standards under the name of ISO 27000 series that specifically reserved by ISO for information security matters. This of course, aligns with a number of other topics, including ISO 9000 (quality management) and ISO 14000 (environmental management).

The 27000 series will be populated with a range of individual standards and documents. A number of these are already well known and have been published. Others are scheduled for publication, with final numbering and publication details yet to be determined. Some of these standards are:

ISO 27002: This is standard number of what was originally the ISO 17799 standard (which itself was formerly known as BS7799-1). Published to set guidelines and best practices for implementing the controls provided by ISO 27001.

ISO 27004: covering information security system management measurement and metrics.

ISO 27005: This is the methodology independent ISO standard for information security risk management.