

Young Aspirants

Our students working on a project "Virtual Keyboard" helps Visually Challenged Persons

SRI SAI RAM ENGINEERING COLLEGE

Department of Information Technology

THE HINDU • THURSDAY, JULY 19, 2007



HOT KEYS: S. Sivaraman works on the keyboard designed for the visually impaired in Tambaram on Tuesday. - PHOTO: A. MURALITHARAN

Putting knowledge gained to good use

IT students construct keyboard for visually challenged

K. Manikandan

Two final year information technology students from a private engineering college in Tambaram have constructed a keyboard which, they say, could help visually challenged persons operate computers with ease.

The project titled 'hardware keyboard for visually impaired' won the first place at a national-level technology meet at the Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur, and was also presented at World-

comp 2007, a global conference on embedded systems and their applications in Las Vegas, Nevada, USA, last month.

S. Sivaraman and R. Srikanth, students of Sri Sai Ram Engineering College, said that they had been doing projects in different areas since their first year but wanted to do something that would benefit a disadvantaged section of the society. They wanted to make life easier for the visually challenged.

Their keyboard features 17

logical switches equipped with soft 'touch sensors'. Using them 62 characters can be typed.

Twelve of the switches were in the 'hash' pattern and the rest in the 'cross' pattern on the keyboard. There was also an integrated text-to-speech conversion system, to minimise the probability of errors.

According to the students, visually challenged people would need just a week to get used to the keyboard and type about 40 characters a minute.



புத்தரர்கள் பயன்படுத்தும் வகையில் அமைக்கப்பட்டுள்ள கம்ப்யூட்டர் வகையை இயக்கி கட்டுவித்த மாணவர்கள்.

எளிதில் பயன்படுத்தும் வகையில்

பார்வையற்றவர்களுக்கு கம்ப்யூட்டர் விசைப்பலகை

சென்னை மாணவர்கள் சாதனை

சென்னை, ஜூலை 24: பார்வை பற்றவர்கள் எளிதாக பயன்படுத்தும் வகையில், கம்ப்யூட்டர் R போர்ட்டு (விசைப்பலகை) சென்னை ஸ்ரீசாராம் பொறியியல் கல்லூரி, தகவல் தொழில்நுட்பப் பிரிவு இறுதி மாண்டு மாணவர்கள் எல்.சிவராஜன், ஆர்.ஸ்ரீகாந்த் ஆகியோர் வடிவமைத்துள்ளனர்.

ஷங்கரமான் கம்ப்யூட்டர் R போர்ட்டில் உள்ளதை போன்றல்லாமல், வெறும் 17 படடங்கள் மட்டுமே இந்த போர்ட்டில் உள்ளது. ஆனால், மற்ற R போர்ட்டுகளில் உள்ள அனைத்து வசதிகளும் இதிலும் உள்ளது. ஒரு படடமே இன்று வலவகை மாற்றி பயன்படுத்த முடியும்.

மேலும், இந்த R போர்ட்டில் கம்ப்யூட்டரை ஸ்பீக்கருடன் இணைத்தால் தாம் டைப் அடித்ததை கேட்கலாம். சரி செயலாம். உரிய பதிலி பெறலாம். திறந்த குறைந்தது 40 வார்த்தைகள் வரை டைப் செய்ய முடியும்.

தங்கள் இறுதி ஆண்டில் ஆய்வு செயல்படுத்திதாக R போர்ட்டு உருவாக்கப்பட்ட விதம், பயன்பாடு குறித்து ஆய்வு அட்டுரைவை இறுதி பாலில் 50க்கும் மேற்பட்ட கருத்தரங்குகளில், அமெரிக்காவில் வால்லே காரில் ஜூன் மாதம் தடைபெற்ற

போர்ட்டு காம்ப்-07' மாநாட்டிலும் சார்ந்ததுள்ளனர்.

ஜூலு கான்சூரிடும், எல்லெய்ல் தொழில் கல்லூரில் தடைபெற்ற அகில இந்திய மாணவர் போர்ட்டு மாநாட்டிலும் சமர்ப்பிக்கப்பட்ட இக் கட்டுரை மூலம் பெற்று பரிசு பெற்றது.

பார்வையற்றவர்கள் பயன்படுத்தும் வகையில் R போர்ட்டை வடிவமைத்த தந்தகை மாணவர்கள் சிவராஜன், ஸ்ரீகாந்த் ஆகியோரை கல்யாணி முதல் வகும, போலிசியம்மும் மாராட்டி ஆள்வனர்.

Our Alumni – Mr.G.Vinod at Infosys

educationplus

THE HINDU Monday, March 21, 2005 7

A mindgame for all

Lateral thinking, logical skills, entertainment, fame. Quizzing gives you all this and much more.

GONE ARE the days when quizzing was synonymous with the class geek.

Straightforward questions such as "Which is India's tallest building" have been thrown off quizzing arenas jazzed up with multimedia. And the quizzing tribe is on the rise, not just for gathering fame, flight tickets and trivia but to sharpen their grey cells as well.

From being just another competition, quizzing is now a healthy and interesting mindgame where your analytical and logical skills are tested, says quizmaster Suresh Kumar.

"Participants are not just voracious readers. They prepare round the year. And quizmasters have to think up more questions that will tease the answer out of them," says Mr. Suresh, a veteran.

The influence of media and the likes of "Kaun Banega Crorepati" have ensured that audio and video play an equal part in the show.

"All these elements help improve lateral thinking," says Suresh. Especially, if you have to find the connection between a video clipping and the clue given by the quizmaster.

Since quizzing is all about arriving at such informed guesses, media professional, Shivram, takes

that extra effort to retain at least some of what he reads. And Vishwajeeth Narvekar, who "discovered quizzing at the age of 26," says the knowledge that comes with quizzing gives one a sense of confidence. "What Henry Ford did at work has got nothing to do with my work or life; but it gives you a lot of confidence that you are informed," he says.

Two success stories

He is in his early twenties. And she is 64.

One half of the landmark open quiz finalist 'Intel Inside, Mental Outside' team is Vinod G., a final Year (B, Tech) student at Sri Sai Ram Engineering College.

Saranya Jayakumar is a quiz compiler and a semi-finalist of the first Mastermind India series.

He started quizzing in school because it was a lot of fun. "I watch a lot of movies, TV and read anything from Douglas Adams to newspapers."

She still reads anything to keep herself updated — from art to wild-life.

Both of them found they were good at quizzing, kept participating and kept getting better. "What keeps Vinod going?"



Exploring the limits of knowledge... at an inter-collegiate quiz. Photo: K. Ananthan

"It's not like examinations where you mug up stuff and answer questions. I like quizzes where you have to think on your feet and come up with answers on different subjects. For that you have to keep your eyes and ears open."

What kept Saranya going after marriage?

"I was always interested in quizzing because you tend to read up on a lot of subjects. After marriage, I just resumed my interest."

And how did it help them? Vinod says long-term quizzing has helped him acquire problem-solving skills in college. "It not only improved my lateral thinking, but helped my overall personality as I have been interacting with a lot of people."

And it helped him keep his cool during an Indian Institute of Management interview. "The certificates also helped me get the call," says Vinod, who plans to continue

to have "awesome fun" quizzing. Saranya, who started off with no books on quiz or pressure to win, says quizzing widened her sphere of interest. She is all for quizzes that provide a fine balance between entertainment and information.

"It is a mental pastime which equips you with knowledge. And all knowledge is good."

Sandhya Soman