TechTalk

GALAXY

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Galaxy Collaborates with HPE at the CIO 100 Symposium & Awards Ceremony 2017

The CIO 100 Symposium is one of the most powerful gatherings of CIOs and senior IT executives across India. Organized by IDG, it highlights the latest opportunities and challenges in a fast-changing world of technology. Galaxy participates in this event each year to showcase the best-in-class products, solutions and services in the technology world.

This year, Galaxy in collaboration with HPE had a booth participation at the CIO event held at J.W. Marriott in Pune. We showcased HPE's products such as Simplivity and Aruba and around 70 senior IT executives visited our booth for a demo. Our team was led by Arun Roongta [Director - Networking] and Pratap Vichare [Director - Enterprise Coverage]. Our networking team got a chance to personally interact with several CIOs across different verticals.

Galaxy looks forward to more such events and opportunities for a chance to present the latest technologies, products and solutions for the betterment of our customers and channel partners.

M.D. Speaks

Dear Readers,

"This month, the Indian IT industry saw the resignation of one of its most high profile CEOs and a lot of mudslinging thereafter. Thankfully, sanity prevailed and the mud seems to have settled and the behemoth is hopefully back on track. Earlier, a certain US based company also had a founder return to the helm, though not under exactly the same circumstances. The dizzying heights that Steve Jobs steered Apple to thereafter has become part of industry folklore. I hope that Mr. Nilekani can take Infosys to the next level.

Talking about comparisons between the United States and India, a couple of incidents just showed the difference in preparedness for natural disasters. The United States was largely prepared for Hurricane Harvey due to advance warnings and communications to the public at large, and the number of casualties were effectively contained from shooting up. In contrast, Mumbai which is one of the most progressive cities in India, suffered a lot and that too to a much milder storm. Weather forecasts had predicted rain and high tides, but the warnings and communication to the public came too late and our preparedness was just not there. On a positive note, it was heart-warming to see people helping each other through the floods by providing food and shelter to the stranded. Salutes to the unbreakable Mumbaikar!"

Happy Reading!

The Future is Now

A Flying Car from DeLorean Really Won't Need Roads

"Roads? Where we're going, we don't need roads," Doc Brown says, before flipping down his reflective goggles and launching his nuclear-powered DeLorean into the air.

If you think you've heard that line too many times, try being Paul DeLorean. He's not just the nephew of John DeLorean, founder of the short-lived automaker that's now best remembered for its car's starring role as a time machine in the Back to the Future movies. He is the CEO and chief designer of DeLorean Aerospace, the company he founded in 2012 to develop a real life flying car.

Earlier generations of DeLoreans worked as coach builders, so although he may cringe at the name recognition he has accepted it. "We've been in transportation forever—it's in my blood," he says.

That heritage has led him into one of the hottest areas of transportation development today. He plans to build a two-seat vertical take-off and landing (VTOL) personal air transport vehicle (what the rest of the world calls a flying car). That moves him well out of sci-fi movie cliché territory and into the company of Uber, Airbus, Darpa, Larry Page, and a ton of start-ups.

Experts working in the field say that, as far-fetched as flying cars sound, the confluence of new lightweight materials, better batteries, and sophisticated computer controls means these visions—like Uber's plan to launch a flying fleet in Dubai by 2020—aren't unrealistic.

Add the business model of ride-sharing, which removes the up-front purchase cost, and there's even a business case for getting these things to work in cities. The tricky part, though, will be figuring out how to safely deploy these things, especially when it comes to air traffic control and certification.

DeLorean's DR-7 aircraft doesn't look as outlandish as some concepts, but that's not saying too much in this field. It has two sets of wings, a pair up front and another at the back, plus some winglets underneath. Two large ducted fans, mounted along the center line, front and back, swivel from horizontal for take-off, to vertical for forward flight.

The aircraft is nearly 20 feet long and 18.5 feet wide, but the wings do a clever Transformers-style hinge and pivot to tuck in against the side, so it can squeeze into a large garage. Propulsion is all electric, and DeLorean aims to make the craft self-flying, so anyone can use it, no special license required.

The Los Angeles area company is still in the R&D phase, but has already built two scale models. The first one was just 30 inches long, to prove the physics works. The next was an engineering model, one-third scale. "We are moving forward on a full-size, piloted prototype which will carry two passengers and is designed to operate, fully electric, for a range of 120 miles," says DeLorean.

That's an optimistic range figure for a battery-powered aircraft. For comparison, Neva Aviation's AirQuadOne, with fans at each corner, promises 25 miles. Airbus' Vahana project is shooting for 50. Both are more than enough to get you from one side of a city to another, flying over the suckers stuck on the freeway. But DeLorean wants to fly further, like all the way to your cabin in the mountains. "You can cruise at higher altitude, with greater efficiency," says DeLorean. "It's designed so that you don't have all the drag." Another advantage of wings is the ability to glide if the motors cut out, increasing the chances of a safe landing.

The company is aiming to complete a full-sized flying prototype within a year. DeLorean he'll find an area of empty California desert and "fly the hell out of" a radio-controlled version before sticking anybody on board.

As for when you'll be able to buy one, and how much you'll need to hand over, that's still to be determined. But DeLorean sees his vehicle as more than just a plaything for rich people. "The design really solves a lot of major transportation problems and inefficiencies, such as deteriorating infrastructure, pollution, and road congestion," he says.

With his enthusiasm and some realistic engineering, experts believe it may only be five to 15 years until nobody needs roads to get where they're going.

Japan's Space Agency Adora-Ball, Zero-Gravity Drone Floats Round ISS
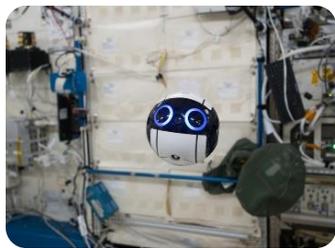
For the first time since its launch into the atmosphere on June 4th 2017, the japan space agency has released images and movies from within the international space station (ISS), taken by the ball-shaped Japanese experiment module (JEM) 'Kibo' drone.

The zero-gravity camera bot is said to be the first of its kind, capturing and recording pictures whilst moving in space under remote control from earth. As well as its exterior and interior structures manufactured using 3D-printing, the drone comes in abundance of AI adorability with a sleek black and white form named the JEM internal ball camera, 'int-ball' for short, the Japan space agency drone can autonomously move in zero-gravity, whilst recording still and moving images. This material can be checked in real time by flight controllers and researchers back on earth, enabling them to cooperate on ISS work quickly and from the same viewpoint at the crew. The project aims to progress the availability and benefits of robotics technology for future space exploration.

Technology Focus

Mitigating Security Risks Posed by Emerging Tech: Expert Advice

Companies are in hot pursuit of the benefits offered by cutting-edge technologies, but mitigating security risks often gets scant attention. CIOs need to change that. Here's how.

Emerging technologies such as the internet of things, robotic process automation, blockchain, 3D and 4D printing, and cognitive computing offer tremendous competitive advantages for companies bold enough to implement them in their enterprises.

However, they also introduce new security risks -- both known and yet unknown. That leaves executives with a difficult choice: Utilize new technologies to get that competitive edge while adding new security risks, or wait on adoption until the emerging technology risks are better understood and lose out in the marketplace.

Such factors add more complexities to the already challenging job of securing IT infrastructure and organizational data against cyberthreats.

"New technologies have unique and new challenges, and not all of [these new] solutions are robust and enterprise-ready," said Frank Ford, leader of the cybersecurity practice at Bain & Co.

He outlined three best practices that he sees as vital for mitigating security risks posed by from emerging technology:

• First, executives must ensure that their existing information risk management strategy is robust. "If you're not robust today, the strain is just going to increase with more and more new technology coming into the environment," he said.

• Second, organizations must embed security staff members who are skilled in identifying and mitigating security risks in the emerging tech initiatives, rather than treating security as an afterthought. "One problem enterprises have is that new initiatives get started and funded out of the business; they get going and then they go to security to get a sign-off," he said. It's much more difficult for security to do their jobs [in that scenario]."

• Third, organizations should fully expect security weaknesses in emerging technologies. "IT departments tend to be risk-adverse, and their caution is well-advised when it comes to new technologies," Ford said.

IT and security teams should invest in understanding the new technologies' architecture, have a healthy scepticism about the vendors' sales pitches and test out new technologies on their own. "It's applying existing understanding to this new environment in a thorough way. You need to probe and make sure it's robust enough," he added.

Mitigating Security Risks: A Layered Approach

Patty Patria, vice president of IT at Becker College, is well-versed in the protocols for mitigating the security risks associated with emerging technology risks. The institution, based in Worcester, Mass., has seen a surge in new technologies -- and is prepared to handle the influx.

"If something brand new came to market tomorrow that could substantially improve the business, we have policies and protocols in place to evaluate it so we can set it up right away. We can move quickly to assess and determine whether it would work well with a minimal security risk or maximum security risk, and we can make recommendations based on that to move forward," Patria said.

For Patria, it's about having layers of protection that can be used to counter the known security risks of an emerging tech as well as any potential threats that haven't yet been identified.

Take, for example, the college's approach to the security risks associated with the internet of things (IoT), as it adds more and more devices to the school's IT infrastructure. Patria requires several security features before any device is connected: They include a secure boot, so it's not hijacked during the start-up process; secure remote firmware updates, so the vendor can do a security update of the device's software; and secure communication protocols. Moreover, if a device stores sensitive data, the device must encrypt that data. It must also have strong user authentication and administrator protocols, she said.

These requirements for IoT are in addition to the college's other existing security measures, such as keeping the student network segregated from the employee network where sensitive data is stored, Patria said.

She explained that her approach to identifying and mitigating security risks in emerging tech doesn't focus on investigating every potential threat that a new technology could introduce, but rather focuses on guarding against as many threats as possible overall.

"If you have the right polices and processes and technologies in place for your security posture, that should help you evaluate any new technology and determine how to securely integrate it into your environment," she said. Organizations where security, technology and the business are aligned and working on strategy together are better able to assess the emerging technology risks, weigh those risks against the potential benefits and make the appropriate investments in the right security measures.

Tech News

Digital Transformation: Why Firms Should Invest in Their Workforce

Improving the digital skills of the workforce is pivotal for organizations to grow their revenue, according to a recent study. "4 Ways Leaders Set Themselves Apart," a study by the SAP Center for Business Insight group and Oxford Economics, showed that business leaders who have completed digital transformation projects across their entire organization report significant increases in employee engagement compared to those with more limited initiatives.

64% of executives with broad-ranging digital initiatives say their employees are more engaged, compared with 20 percent among organizations that have completed transformation projects in single business areas. The study concludes that successful transformation depends on people, highlighting the importance of workforce investments in driving digital business performance.

The results show stark differences between organizations that have completed transformation projects and those that have yet to adopt digital strategies.

For example, 83% percent of digital transformation leaders expect digitalization to change talent management over the next 2 years. That figure compared with only 37 % of organizations that have yet to begin digital transformation.

Respondents who completed digital transformation projects across their business have a more crystalized vision of the potential benefit across their HR processes, with 71 percent saying digitalization will make it easier to attract and retain the best talent, compared with 54 percent of other respondents. About 52 percent of the businesses that have undergone digital transformation projects said they planned over the next two years to create new roles to reflect technological imperatives, compared with only 32 percent of companies that have yet to undertake digital transformation.

"Today's leading businesses are putting their employees at the heart of their digital transformation strategies," said Greg Tomb, president, SAP SuccessFactors. "Successful digitalization depends on people, with the most innovative and forward-looking companies committed to investing in their workforce to ensure they are properly equipped to meet the challenges of tomorrow."

The banking sector showed the greatest commitment to increasing investment in digital skills over the next two years. 48% listed it as the most important factor to driving profit growth, while 45 percent of the professional services sector rated improving employee engagement as the most important profit-driving factor.

"Digital transformation is about more than investing in the latest technology," says Edward Cone, technology practice lead, Oxford Economics. "People matter most – how they work, what they know, which skills they need in a changing workplace. Most companies have only begun to address these human factors, and those that fall behind may never catch up."

Pay with Your Face at This KFC In China

Paying for food at one KFC restaurant in China just got a lot more personal.

Forget cash, credit cards or a smartphone -- customers can now settle the bill with their face thanks to new technology unveiled on Friday. Ant Financial, an affiliate of Chinese e-commerce giant Alibaba (BABA, Tech30), launched the new service in the eastern city of Hangzhou. It's the latest example of the growing use of facial recognition by businesses and government agencies in the world's most populous nation. Diners at the restaurant, a KFC brand in China known as KPro, place their order at a terminal, which then scans their face.

Ant says the KFC restaurant is the first physical store in the world to use facial recognition software to take payments. The company is eager to reassure consumers that the technology is secure. The software analyses more than 600 facial features to make a match, and uses a 3D camera and a "liveness" algorithm to make sure people aren't trying to fool it with photos or videos of someone else. Similar technology is already being used in a variety of ways in China.

Tech company Baidu (BIDU, Tech30) began testing facial recognition software last year to manage tourist admissions in Wuzhen, a historic town that receives millions of visitors each year. Staff at Baidu headquarters can pay with their faces in the company restaurant.

Ordering meals at Baidu HQ will literally leave you with a smile on your face! With Baidu's Facial Recognition, you can just smile to pay! Face scanners even made it into the toilet stalls at a popular park in Beijing in order to stop people taking more than their fair share of toilet paper.

Tech News

These Three Countries Are Winning the Global Robot Race

When it comes to making machines to perform tasks that humans have done for years, the United States, China and India are far ahead of anyone else, according to a top tech industry executive.

The three countries are leading an artificial intelligence (AI) revolution, Malcolm Frank, head of strategy at leading outsourcing firm Cognizant, told CNNMoney in an interview.

Frank is the co-author of a recent book entitled "What to Do When Machines Do Everything," on the impact artificial intelligence will have on the global economy in the coming years.

"I think it's three horses in the race, and that's probably the wrong metaphor because they are all going to win," he said. "They are just going to win differently."

While AI is progressing quickly elsewhere too, Frank said the other development hotspots are mainly city hubs such as London and Stockholm, or far smaller economies such as Estonia.

"The big three [are] India, China and the U.S," he said.

America

Silicon Valley giants such as Facebook (FB, Tech30), Amazon (AMZN, Tech30), Google (GOOGL, Tech30) and Tesla (TSLA) are already investing billions in harnessing the power of computers to replace several human tasks. Computers are already beginning to substitute for people in sectors such as agriculture and even medicine, not to mention the race to get driverless cars on the road.

China

The world's second largest economy is also betting big on artificial intelligence. Tech companies including Tencent (TCEHY) and Baidu (BIDU, Tech30) are competing with Silicon Valley to develop new uses for AI, and tech billionaire Jack Ma of Alibaba (BABA, Tech30), one of China's richest men, has even said CEOs may eventually be obsolete. Unlike in the U.S., however, the biggest push towards this new world in China is coming from the government. The Chinese government has already laid out an ambitious plan for a $150 billion AI industry, saying last month that it wants China to become the world's "innovation center for AI" by 2030.

India

In India, the main shift towards artificial intelligence is coming from companies that make up its $143 billion outsourcing industry -- a sector that employs nearly 4 million people. Top firms like Infosys (INFY), Tata Consultancy Services and Wipro (WIT), which provide technology services to big names including Deutsche Bank (DB), Lockheed Martin (LMT), IBM (IBM, Tech30), Microsoft (MSFT, Tech30) and the U.S. Army, are increasingly relying on automation in their operations.

As for the other pervasive fear -- that more robots will lead to job losses -- Frank argues that AI will not only create more and different kinds of jobs in the future, but also enhance many of the existing ones. "That's what happened with assembly lines, that's what happened with the steam engine, that's what we think is going to happen with artificial intelligence."

Special Focus

IBM Partnership with VMware to Be a Game Changer for Cloud Security

At last week's 2017 VMworld event, IBM Security General Manager Marc van Zadelhoff joined VMware CEO Pat Gelsinger on the main stage to announce a partnership aimed at bridging the gap between IT operations and security teams to respond faster and more effectively to security breaches.

IBM and VMware Join Forces for Cloud Security

As part of this partnership, VMware AppDefense, a new security product for locking down VMware-based applications and workloads, will be integrated directly into QRadar, IBM's security analytics platform. IBM plans to deliver QRadar with AppDefense to customers, providing unmatched visibility and control into evasive and malicious activity across virtualized workloads.

Since Gartner expects that 90 percent of organizations will adopt hybrid cloud by 2020, it will be more important than ever for security teams to rapidly understand and respond to advanced threats through a single pane of glass, rather than disparate security tools.

About Galaxy

- One of the most respected Information Technology integrator of the best of breed products and solutions for Enterprise Computing, Storage, Networking, Security, Automation, Application Delivery, ERP and Business Intelligence.
- An ISO 9001:2008 organization, founded in 1987.
- Committed team of over 200 skilled professionals.
- PAN India presence.
- Trusted IT services provider to more than a 1000 companies.
- Experienced consultants certified on a wide spectrum of technologies.
- The Galaxy Technology Innovation Centre, a state-of-the-art integrated hardware and software laboratory, allows customers a hands-on look at the latest storage, backup, security, application delivery and virtualization technologies.
- Customer list includes many of India's leading corporations, banks and government agencies.
- Four business units collaborate to provide a full spectrum of services and ensure smooth projects. Together, they provide our customers with truly end to end professional IT Services.

Mobile Devices and IoT System integrators of best of breed mobile devices and IoT to keep the organizations up-to-date.	**Enterprise Mobility** Skilled pool of resources consistently maintains and delivers enterprise class service levels
Networking Solution One of India's most trusted active and passive networking specialists	**Galaxy Data Center Services** Helps organizations to deliver and leverage data center practice to create substantial business impact

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"To become the most preferred technology solution partner by listening to our customers, anticipating their needs and providing reliability, flexibility, responsiveness and innovative products and services. Achieving market leadership and operating excellence in every segment of our company."

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"Total customer satisfaction; through innovative insights, quality service and excellence in technology deployment."

VALUE PROPOSITION

"We understand the need of a common vendor for all your IT needs. Hence, we are committed to long-term partnerships by delivering on our commitments."