

CSI survey

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Voice, language and technical skills were low on the survey report says, pointing out that organizations prefer those who possess presentation and communication skills.

Underlying the basic survey, CSI vice-president S. S. "It is a part of our commitment to the IT Task Force to undertake the survey and to share the results with the industry which will give an insight into the planning, development and implementation of strategies as well as formulate strategic certification programmes for those that are acceptable to the international IT companies.

The idea was conceived by the East Asia Regional Communication Federation (SEARCC) survey where nine out of the 13 members unanimously agreed upon the similar National Information Communications Technology surveys in the Asia Pacific region for the first time ever.

According to Prasad, the survey was undertaken with a two-fold purpose. "One as a part of our Asia Pacific survey and the other as part of the working group of the IT Task Force two years back.

He recalled that this was a concerted effort in India to assess the skills and manpower within IT in the country, which will help the government to identify existing loopholes and give policy makers to initiate measures in this regard. The outcome of a need assessment by the government and the industry to bridge the gaps in the manpower in the IT industry, he added.

The survey was based on a series of questionnaires addressed to individual IT professionals in which queries regarding their personal skills and requirements were asked. The second survey was addressed to organizations with the primary objective of this survey was to assess the skills, which were in demand to acquire those skills.

Digital AgeTM

Towards broadbanding

In the aftermath of dotcom overvaluation, companies have turned towards Internet access to make it big in the Internet era. The reality is that Internet access commands more than double the revenues of the flashier Internet portal and content companies that normally make headlines. But traditional access is not going to make Internet access business grow. It's time to get into a bigger game with broadband. Broadband is about to rewrite the rules of the Internet access game. Broadband refers to a range of technologies that enable access to the Internet at speeds of up to several megabits per second (mbps) up to a thousand times faster than with today's typical modems. Downloading Web pages with narrowband technology has been a real pain for users whereas broadband technologies deliver crisp text, video, and sound as quickly as television. Broadband has been waiting in the wings for years. But local telephone companies were reluctant to invest in it for fear of cannibalizing their lucrative 1.5mbit/s (T1) leased lines. However, broadband technology got the much needed boost with the arrival of satellite connectivity which offered cable operators the capability to deliver more than 500 channels of crisp digital video and audio to cable customers. With the possibility of cable operators upgrading their systems to enable two-way communication, broadband operators had to speed up the process of entering the fray to remain competitive.

Broadband basically comes in three variants each supported by a different industry group. Telecom companies are moving to deploy digital subscriber line (xDSL) technologies; cable companies are pushing cable modems while wireless competitors are betting on local multipoint distribution systems (LMDS), multichannel multipoint distribution systems (MMDS), and satellite technologies. Of these technologies, cable modems and xDSL are seen to be the most viable in the next three to five years as satellite's infrastructure costs make it too expensive for the consumer segment and wireless technologies are still a long way away. Moreover cable modem costs are continuously dropping. The adoption rates for cable and xDSL in the US in areas where they are available are higher than those for comparable new technologies in the past. Analysts' projections put broadband penetration at 12.5 million in 2002 (up from 100,000 today), with consumers enjoying a richer, faster experience and spending up to three times as much time on line every day as the typical narrowband user.

Broadband delivery is also expected to boost Internet businesses' ability to generate high-margin advertising and transaction revenues. Given these conditions, broadband will settle in the range of 10 percent of users and 30 percent of high-margin revenues by 2001, according to analysts' estimates. As the Internet reach grows, so must the connectivity that delivers Internet access. In the long run, as prices fall and as more applications leverage broadband capabilities, broadband may attract a much wider audience than narrowband, making the Internet a truly mass medium. After all how long can the neighbourhood telephone line carry high intensity graphics, streaming audio and video to serve the growth of Internet?

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