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Passwords may soon become a thing of the past

You may soon get rid of the complexity of remembering multiple passwords for various accounts on the internet and for offline access. With the increasing utility of biometric authentication and mobile phones as personnel verification devices, passwords may soon become passé, say industry experts.

"The widespread practice of typing usernames and passwords to log on to the internet might soon become obsolete," says Robin Murdoch, managing director of Accenture's internet and social business segment. "Consumers are increasingly frustrated with these traditional methods because they are becoming less reliable for protecting their personal data such as email addresses, mobile phone numbers and purchasing history."

The research, based on a survey of 24,000 consumers across 24 countries, reveals that 60 per cent of consumers find usernames and passwords cumbersome, and more than three-fourths (77 per cent) are interested in using alternatives to protect their security on the Internet. With the password system constantly under attack by cyber criminals, security vendors and providers are facing increasing challenges on ways to balance the need for convenience against complexity while providing users with the seamless experience that they

demand, says a survey report by the security company Symantec. Adopting multi-factor authentication techniques such as one-time passwords or iris and fingerprint scanning may provide alternate safeguard methods, adds the report.

Another alternative that is considered to be the future of authentication is mobile phones. It is more useful in the physical world where passwords or plastic cards are now used for user verification. The biggest advantage in using mobile phones for authentication is that installing and maintaining authentication apps in phones may only cost as much as cards, says Ranjit Nambiar – director India and SAARC at HID Global, the leader in access control solutions.

Organisations offer plastic cards, mostly in the form of identity cards, to provide access into buildings and to record time and attendance. Biometric authentication methods including fingerprint and iris are used for additional security.

Source | Financial Chronicle | 15 November 2015

Navigate and search the real world ... online or off

November 10, 2015

Roughly 60 percent of the world is without Internet today, and even where online access is

available, it can still be spotty. That means that quick and easy access to information is still not possible for a majority of the population. This is a huge problem, especially as people attempt to navigate and explore the world around them, so Google Maps is taking steps to help people across the globe find directions and get where they're going, even when they don't have an Internet connection.

Now you can download an area of the world to your phone, and the next time you find there's no connectivity—whether it's a country road or an underground parking garage—Google Maps will continue to work seamlessly. Whereas before you could simply view an area of the map offline, now you can get turn-by-turn driving directions, search for specific destinations, and find useful information about places, like hours of operation, contact information or ratings.

You can download an area by searching for a city, or country, for instance, and tapping "Download" on the resulting place sheet, or by going to "Offline Areas" in the Google Maps menu and tapping on the "+" button. Once downloaded, Google Maps will move into offline mode automatically when it recognizes you're in a location with spotty service or no connectivity at all. When a connection is found, it will switch back online so you can easily access the full version of Maps, including live traffic conditions for your current route. By default, we'll only download

areas to your device when you are on a Wi-Fi connection to prevent large data fees.

We first previewed these new capabilities during Google I/O in May, and today we're gradually rolling out the first set of these improvements with the latest version of Google Maps on Android (coming soon to iOS). Over time, we'll be introducing even more offline features to help you find your way—even when you can't find a connection.

Source

| <https://googleblog.blogspot.in/>

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The British Library Plans to Digitize Indian Texts

The British Library (BL) announced Two Centuries of Indian Print, a pilot project for the major digitization program of its Indian books dating from 1714 to 1914. By digitizing these books, which are written in at least 22 South Asian languages, the BL will preserve the content of their fragile pages and make them widely available to a global audience. During the pilot, the library will digitize 1,000 Bengali titles and enhance the catalog records of more than 2,000 titles.

The project is a partnership with Indian institutions such as Srishti Institute of Art, Design and Technology and the National Library of India.

Press

Release

Source | <http://www.bl.uk/p>

[ress-releases/2015/november/unlocking-indias-printed-heritage](#)

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Creating a library out of retirement benefits

The library has 15,000 Tamil books and 5,000 English books, particularly books on Tamil literature and culture.

It is common for a person to invest retirement benefits for a secure future. However, V. Arasu, former head of the Tamil Department of University of Madras, has spent Rs. 15 lakh to create an academic library for the benefit of research students at his residence in Perungudi in Chennai.

He has all the dictionaries published in Tamil, over a thousand books on Eelam literature, 3,000 literary magazines that created new trends in Tamil literature, souvenirs on great Tamil scholars, including U.V. Swaminatha Iyer, R.P. Sethu Pillai and theatre personality Pamma Sambanda Mudaliar.

“The library is open to all serious and committed students. They can even stay there and work. They

can share the food we prepare. Even while I was teaching in the university, we had always had one student or the other staying with us,” said Mr. Arasu, who has created a separate room for students in the library.

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Introducing the new Google+

November 17, 2015

If you head over to Google+ today, you’ll see that things look a little different. Since we last posted, we’ve spent a lot of time listening to what people using Google+ had to say. There were two features they kept coming back to: Communities, which now average 1.2 million new joins per day, and Collections, which was launched just five months ago and is growing even faster. Whether it’s the Nonfiction Addiction Community, where people can be found discussing the best in Crime or Travel, Storytelling, or the Watch Project Collection, where more than 40,000 people are following an antique watch hobbyist, these are the places on Google+ where people around the world are spending their time discovering and sharing things they love.

And so we’ve reimagined Google+ to help them do that. Today, we’re starting to introduce a fully redesigned Google+ that puts Communities and Collections front and center. Now focused around interests, the new Google+ is much simpler. And it’s more mobile-friendly —we’ve

rebuilt it across web, Android and iOS so that you'll have a fast and consistent experience whether you are on a big screen or small one. You'll need to opt-in to this new version of Google+ on the web to see the changes—check out [our Google+ post](#) for more on how to give it a try.

Creating great products that solve real needs and make life easier for people is something Google is always striving for.

Source
| <https://googleblog.blogspot.in/>

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EBSCO Information Services Donates Digital Content to Worldreader to Support Literacy in the Developing World

~ Readers Can Easily Access the Books through Worldreader Mobile ~

IPSWICH, Mass. — December 10, 2015 — EBSCO Information Services (EBSCO) and Worldreader, a global non-profit dedicated to improving literacy in the developing world through digital books, are partnering to bring non-fiction content to children and their families in sub-Saharan Africa and India. The proprietary reference articles donated by EBSCO will help Worldreader as it aims to reach 10 million readers with its digital library by the end of 2015.

The reference articles will be available via Worldreader Mobile,

allowing readers to access the information through the cell phones they already have. EBSCO worked with Worldreader to select learning resources that were easy to read on a cell phone and included subjects Worldreader knows readers are interested in such as science, literature, poetry, biographies, history, philosophy, math and more.

“Reading is transformative; especially in the developing world where access to books is often limited or non-existent,” says Danielle Zacarias, Director of Content, Worldreader. “This partnership with EBSCO enables Worldreader to provide a variety of non-fiction reference articles filled with real-world knowledge about science, history, math, and subjects that will educate, inspire, and empower growth and hope in the parts of the world that need it most.”

Source | <https://www.ebsco.com/news-center/press-releases/ebsco-information-services-donates-digital-content-to-worldreader>

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Li-Fi: A green avatar of Wi-Fi

Li-Fi is not expected to completely replace Wi-Fi, but the two technologies could be used complementarily to create more efficient, green and future-proof access networks. Li-Fi, or light fidelity, invented by German physicist and professor Harald

Haas, is a wireless technology that makes use of visible light in place of radio waves to transmit data at terabits per second speeds—more than 100 times the speed of Wi-Fi.

Though it was discovered in the last decade, proofs of concept to test commercial utilization started emerging only in 2015. To start with, it is being tested for indoor usage, i.e., in offices and establishments, but it is also sure to go outdoor in a big way by making use of existing infrastructure used for street and traffic lights, which are already moving towards LED lamps.

Li-Fi offers great promise to overcome the existing limitations of Wi-Fi by providing for data-heavy communication in short ranges. Since it does not pollute, it can be called a green technology for device-to-device communication in the Internet of Things (IoT).

Move towards greener wireless communication

A technical solution for wireless pollution, power shortages and unavailability at outdoor locations should meet the 3L criteria: low interference, low power and low maintenance.

In addition, it has to support the three Hs of high data rates, high reliability and high affordability. Since Li-Fi relies on visual light and not radio waves as the carrier, it has potential for the first two Hs, but the last one—

high affordability—may be achieved only when volumes increase, as it has in the case of Wi-Fi.

The above characteristics can be met by an all-IP (packetized) Li-Fi system utilizing existing LED lamps which are ruggedized, have a high MTBF (mean time between failure) and consume less power, therefore replacing conventional lamps on existing structures in both indoor as well as outdoor without need for any additional power supply.

To make LED lamps capable of working as an access point as in Wi-Fi, a kind of media converter is required to convert the electrical data signal into photons (light), and a light detector which converts light into electricity is required on the receiving device end.

Potential applications

Li-Fi is still in its infancy, but some fields where it seems eminently usable are street and traffic lights. Traffic lights can communicate to the vehicles and with each other. Vehicles having LED-based headlights and tail lamps can communicate with each other and prevent accidents by exchanging information. Also, through the use of Li-Fi, traffic control can be made intelligent and real-time adaptable. Actually, each traffic and street light post can be converted into access points to convert roadsides into wireless hot spots.

Visible light being safer, they can also be used in places where radio waves can't be used such as petrochemical and nuclear plants and hospitals. Similarly, in aircraft, where most of the control communication is performed through radio waves, there are restrictions on passenger communication using the same media, which can be easily handled through use of Li-Fi.

Li-Fi can also easily work underwater, where Wi-Fi fails completely, thereby throwing open endless opportunities for military and navigational operations. Still, the technology comes with some limitations.

As visual light can't pass through opaque objects and needs line of sight for communication, its range will remain very restricted to start with. Also, it is likely to face interference from external light sources, such as sunlight and bulbs, and obstructions in the path of transmission, and hence may cause interruptions in communication.

Also, initially, there will be high installation costs of visual light communication systems as an add-on to lighting systems. Li-Fi receiving devices will require adapters to transmit data back to the transmitter.

Challenges and Opportunity in India

The lack of ubiquitous broadband access, which thereby restricts data access, and chaotic traffic

management leading to traffic jams and pollution are just two of the many problems in India. Li-Fi has scope to help with both. By converting traffic lights into LED-based access points, traffic management can be made intelligent, adaptive and real-time—and so, more efficient and effective. In the same way, street lights can also be converted into Li-Fi access points, making them broadband access transmitters to mobile Li-Fi enabled smartphones, converting areas into seamless hot spots.

The main challenge is to create a Li-Fi ecosystem, which will need the conversion of existing smartphones into Li-Fi enabled ones by the use of a converter/adaptor. Also, an integrated chip that has both light-to-electrical conversion and data-processing capability (Wi-Fi/Bluetooth) combined into one needs to be developed and manufactured in the millions. This is one opportunity where the country can capture the initial lead advantage, making up for earlier missed cases.

If Li-Fi can be put into practical use, every LED lamp (indoor as well as outdoor) can be converted into something like a hot spot to transmit data to every mobile device to achieve universal broadband communication between devices. Also, it presents another unique possibility: transmitting power wirelessly, wherein the smartphone will not only receive data through Li-Fi,

but will also receive power to charge itself.

Sayta N. Gupta is founder and secretary general of NGN (Next Generation Networks) Forum.

Link |
<http://www.livemint.com/Opinion/tFei3PUmaFtGO3T2hDSciN/LiFi-A-green-avatar-of-WiFi.html>

Source | Mint – Wall Street Journal | 5 January 2015

Development of Public Libraries Under National Mission on Libraries

The National Mission on Libraries (NML) will upgrade infrastructure of selected libraries and upgrade technology in 35 State Central Libraries and 35 District Libraries (to be identified by State Governments) and 6 Libraries under the Ministry of Culture. So far 11 State Central Libraries and 11 District Libraries in Twelve States have been approved for development as NML Model Libraries.

It has been reported that 77% of survey of the libraries have been completed. The expected date of completion of survey cannot be indicated at this stage.

This information was given by Minister of State for Culture and

Tourism (Independent Charge) and Minister of State for Civil Aviation Dr. Mahesh Sharma in a written reply in RajyaSabha today.

Source | www.pib.nic.in

Proposals approved for 12 states under National Libraries Mission

There is no scope for the setting up of new libraries under the 'National Mission on Libraries (NML)', the government today said while announcing that project estimates of 12 states have been approved for the upgrade of libraries.

"The proposals of 12 states have been approved and fund released to three of them," Culture and Tourism Minister Mahesh Sharma said in a written reply in Lok Sabha.

The approved project estimate of State Central Libraries and District Libraries in 12 states for infrastructure and technology upgrade under NML covers Rs 2.06 crore for State Central Library, Allahabad (Uttar Pradesh) and Rs 2.23 crore each for HKM State Library, Bhubaneswar (Odisha); Krishnadas Shama State Central Library (Goa); State Central Library, Bangalore (Karnataka); Birchandra State Central Library, Agartala (Tripura) and State Central Library, Itanagar (Arunachal Pradesh).

Other approvals include Rs 2.22 crore for State Central Library, Kolkata (West Bengal); Rs 1.12 crore for State Central Library, Hyderabad (Telangana), about Rs 1 crore each for State Central Library, Aizawl (Mizoram), State Central Library, Jaipur (Rajasthan) and State Central Library, Gandhinagar (Gujarat).

Approved project estimates for libraries under the Ministry of Culture include Rs 2.34 crore for Delhi Public Library and Rs 4.52 crore for Central Secretariat Library in the national capital, Rs 3.98 crore for KhudaBakhsh Oriental Public Library, Patna (Bihar); Rs 6.91 crore for Thanjavur Maharaja Serfoji's Saraswati Mahal Library, Thanjavur (Tamil Nadu) and Rs 4.26 crore for National Library, Kolkata.

Sharma said the scheme of 'National Mission on Libraries - Upgradation of Libraries - providing services to the public' has been approved with a total outlay of Rs 400 crore for the 12th Plan period.

The components of NML are creation of national virtual library of India (NVLI) and NML model libraries, quantitative and qualitative survey of libraries and capacity building, he said.

The minister said that the Mission will improve the infrastructure at selected libraries and upgrade technology in 35 State Central Libraries and 35 District Libraries (to be identified by state governments) and six libraries under the Ministry of Culture.

6th century 'Ramayana'

found in Kolkata library

Kolkata: Scholars in Kolkata have stumbled upon a sixth-century manuscript of the Hindu epic *Ramayana* in a library.

"The rendition in this version is quite different from the more accepted 4BC Valmiki *Ramayana*, where the protagonist, Ram, and Sita appear more humane rather than incarnation of gods," said Anasuya Bhowmick, research collaborator at the Asiatic Society.

Until now, the 12th-century rendition by Tamil poet Kamba was considered the second oldest among the more popular versions. This may now change.

Bhowmik said that the discovery of the manuscript was accidental. They were researching a *Purana* (old script) at the Asiatic Society library, which was incomplete. They began looking through the Catalogus Catalogorum — a global repository of Sanskrit manuscripts — and realised two more identical manuscripts existed. One was preserved at the India Office Library, London; the other was at the city-based Samskrita Sahitya Parishad, a 100-year-old research institute.

