

Information Technology is the core driving factors for success in today's banking industry. Over all investment of banks in information technology is more than 20,000 crore Taka. I keep on writing on what to do, what next to do to make a better IT enabled business model for banks in Bangladesh and this article is a continuation of same thought.

Due to not having expected business, banks have taken steps to cost reduction. The new normal for the industry seems to be slow and steady growth as banking leaders streamline costs and evaluate strategies to drive future revenue, however technology will continue to evolve as a differentiator. I feel banks will be passing challenging time this fiscal year with following priorities in the area of information technology:

Cost Effectiveness : Information technology is still the area where bank would increase spending over the years. However, IT can be cost effective in many ways I believe; sometime we take world's best core banking applications to perform the basic banking. First step towards cost effectiveness can be thinking about *freeware*. Mostly we use very basic features of applications like MS Office, which can be easily managed by free tools like *open office*. Same goes to email service, application server, database and many others. Easily a non-critical application can be hosted in *freeware* Apache with *mysql*. Consolidation can bring synergy in cost cutting which has been discussed in a separate paragraph. Outsourcing can be thought as cost effective option with faster time to market, NGOs are doing good business by hosting core system to third party under SaaS mode, why not bank use this model at least for non-critical systems. Most banks continue to be tasked with reducing their organizations' cost bases. Those who succeed at strategic planning and transition risk assessment can be effective.

Security : With the raise of e-commerce, internet banking, SMS, Mobile banking and BYOD, security becomes top agenda for security departments. Increased and more sophisticated security threats will require top-notch risk management. Given the nature of these threats, our information security is ever changing, which makes it difficult to develop a static plan.

population. If a mobile wallet user comes to a bank ATM or Branch for cash withdrawal, the meaning of cost effectiveness is at loss, cost per transaction in ATM/ Branch is significantly higher than that from mobile banking/top-up agent.

Consolidation : Most of the bank did separate infrastructure investment based on application, where peak usage

Technology Priorities for Banks

Mamun Seraji

E-commerce without 3DES is the critical risks of today as still people prefer to handover card to hotel boy and retail stores keep logging card number and expiry date in register.

Internet banking and mobile banking are forcing banks to expose sensitive customer data over public channels like web and SMS gateway. I see a bank, which is doing mobile banking allowing user to put password over plain text SMS! Too much vendor dependency is another risk factor, IT Heads has to measure the influence that vendors have on performance or decisions.

Payment Channels : Banks will be to continue to articulate a response to evolving channels like mobile banking and anticipate customer behaviour and successfully articulate an appropriate solution. Mobile banking is growing exponentially and banks are working with minor deviation in business process. Logically mobile banking wallets should not be a part of expensive core banking system, however some are conceptualizing mobile wallet to be a part of banking host or wallet user must have a bank account to operate, which opposes the thought of providing low cost banking services to unbanked

time is very limited. Latest technologies like GRID/VM are allowing sharing of infrastructure across multiple applications. A single set of hardware can support wide range of applications where storage, memory or CPU can be added based on demand. Consolidation is an area technology division will pass on this year and beyond.

In the area of application consolidation, banks that started ADC channel years back has to select separate system for ATM controller, Credit card host, ePayment gateway etc. However, now a single solution provider can address the entire ADC need for a bank. Consolidation of inter application communication is a challenge for banks. Banks have to think for a common middleware to ease inter application communication. For example, National Payment Switch of Bangladesh bank will seek single system to talk with central bank for debit / credit card; however most of the bank has more than one application, which may need to talk with NPS. In such scenario middleware is essential being it enterprise level or not.

In summary, there are four technical areas on which bank will be continuing to focus on: risk management, adaptability, efficiency and innovation. ■

The writer is a Financial Technology Solution Specialist

New D-Link Products Now on Sale in Bangladesh

D-LINK DIR-505 All-in-one Mobile Companion



The DIR-505 All-in-one Mobile Companion is a portable plug-in router that lets you share your Internet connection and your files all from a compact device that fits in your pocket. Tiny yet versatile, it gives you all the functionality of a router, access point, wireless repeater, and network storage drive in a device that fits in the palm of your hand.

Features

Complying with the IEEE 802.11 b/g, compatible with IEEE 802.11n products
Up to 150 Mbps data rate
Support Router/Access Point, Repeater and Wi-Fi HotSpot operation modes
1 x Fast Ethernet port
1 USB for media sharing
WPS button design for easy & secure setup
D-Link One-Touch AP configuration
Share Port Mobile (only support in Router and Wi-Fi HotSpot mode) and Quick Router Setup Mobile IOS APP support (only support for Router mode)
SharePort Web Access (only support in Router and Wi-Fi HotSpot mode)

DIR-457U HSDPA 3.75G myPocket router (single band 2100 MHz)



The myPocket 3.75G HSDPA Router

allows you to connect to a 3.75G mobile network and share a 3.75G mobile connection with PCs and wireless devices within the area. Firewall and wireless security features are also included for safe remote connections.

Features

SHARE YOUR CONNECTION

The router can share its 3.75G connection with up to 16 Wi-Fi clients like smart phones, notebooks or gaming devices.

BUILT-IN FIREWALL AND ENCRYPTION

The built-in firewall and WPA/WPA2 wireless encryption ensure that your information remains secure when working from remote locations.

COMPACT DESIGN

The battery-powered router is slim and small enough to carry in your pocket
Wireless Access Point
Compatible with 802.11b Devices
3G Internet Connection Support
SMS Support
VPN Support
Advanced Network Filter and Firewall Features
User-friendly Setup Wizard

DPR-1040 Wireless G Multifunctional Printer Server

The DPR-1040 Wireless USB Print Server is a versatile print server ideal for use at hospitality segment, office, business etc. It support scan, fax, and print functions.



The DPR-1040 Wireless G Print Server lets users share a USB printer across a network, while also providing scan and fax functions to those who use multifunction equipment. Use the WPS button neatly located on the side of the device to set up a secure wireless connection to your router or access point in seconds, giving you the time to enjoy the benefits of this stylish and compact device.

Features

Wireless 802.11g with WPS (Wi-Fi Protected Setup)
1 USB 2.0 port for your printer
1 10/100BASE-TX Ethernet port
Supports Internet Printing Protocol (IPP) for remote printing over the Internet
Supports a wide range of printers including GDI
Supports scan and fax functions of multifunction equipment
Supports TCP/IP, LPR, RAW, IPP

DAP-1350 Wireless N Pocket Router / Access Point



The D-Link Wireless N Pocket Router/Access Point (DAP-1350) features multi-mode functionality you can utilize

as a wireless router to create an 11n Wi-Fi network or easily use as an access point to add Wi-Fi to an existing wired network to provide a wireless connection anywhere. The DAP-1350 also functions as a wireless client to easily connect an Ethernet-ready device (such as a desktop PC or game console) to a Wi-Fi network for increased flexibility and added convenience for all your wireless networking needs.

Features

Multi-mode functionality with wireless router, access point, and wireless client modes.
Create a powerful Wi-Fi network with 802.11n wireless technology.

SharePort Technology for sharing USB printers and storage over your network.
Supports Power over USB3 for added convenience

Quickly and securely connect computers and devices to your wireless network with the Wi-Fi Protected Setup (WPS) Push Button.
Secure your wireless network using advanced WPA or WPA2 encryption

DIR-600L Wireless N150 D Link Cloud Router



DIR-600L is designed to support Android/iPhone App 'mydlink lite' and capable of providing push event, user control and real-time browsing record via mydlink cloud

service. This allows home user to monitor/control the network clients via Android Phone or iPhone Application. You can also check the visited website record of network clients while they are doing the net-surfing. If any wireless intruder intends to break into your home network will trigger push messages to your cell phone and let you choose block or not. It complied with IEEE802.11b/g/n WLAN technology, transmit data rate up to 150 Mbps.

Features

Connect Anytime, Anywhere
Online User Notice
Wireless Intrusion Alert
User Control
Real-time Browsing Record
Easy Setup Wizard

DAP-1353 Range Booster N 650 Access Point

Wirelessly share the Internet by connecting the Range Booster N 650 Access Point into virtually any existing Internet-enabled wired network.

Features

Total Performance
Create a wireless home network with the latest draft 802.11n technology for total network performance
Total Security
Complete set of security features including WPA2 to protect your network against outside intruders
Total Coverage
Provides greater wireless signal rates at farther distances for best-in-class home network coverage.

Authorized distributor :
Spectrum Engineering Consortium Ltd.
Phone : 01841566504 , 01811-486905
Visit : facebook.com/DlinkBangladesh