



Name of Initiative
somewhere in... blog
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somewhere in net ltd
Nomination Submitted by
somewhere in net ltd
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Web/Internet
Language
Bangla and English
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www.somewhereinbangladesh.net

e-Localization

1st Runner Up

SOMEWHERE IN BANGLADESH

Somewhere in Bangladesh is the first location based social media service where users post their short status updates (max 140 characters). Users register with their neighbourhood location and can view a community page with a Google map, local attractions, local events, other members from the same neighbourhood/area, etc. Users can send SMS using the nick name, not phone number.

Somewhere in is all the most popular blog in Bangladesh where more than 8000 users participate in sharing thoughts and ideas in Bangla language.

e-Localization

Finalist

KATHA TEXT TO SPEECH SYSTEM FOR BANGLA

Accessibility in computer and Internet usage is limited for print disable people in general. In Bangladesh, it is more problematic as along with the citizens who are visually impaired, more than one third of our population is print disable due to lack of formal literacy. A text-to-speech software is desperately needed.

Kotha is the first Bangla language processing software, which can convert a Unicode encoded Bangla text into human speech. This text-to-speech (TTS) software can also be used with any available Screen Reader. In addition to the standalone TTS client, it can be integrated into virtually any application, and can also be accessed as a Web Service. Incorporation of this technology in various applications such as screen reader for the visually impaired, Interactive Voice Response (IVR) systems, touch screen based agro-information system, talking books, telecenters applications, e-content, etc. is possible.

Reaching precision is a lengthy process in such a complex process and Kotha reached 90% precision, thus voice of the software still sounds 'robotic', but good enough to understand what is read from the text.

Kotha is distributed under an open source license to empower both the user and developer communities.



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Text to Speech System for Bangla
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