

MAIL TO MOTHER'S INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL CLASS XII-D GROUP

From: Satyajit Bhattacharya jnekrophilus@rediffmail.com;
Subject: [mis_12d] hello
To: mis_12d@yahoogroups.com
Date: Sunday, July 24, 2005, 3:30 PM

HELLO, ALL.

I GUESS THIS IS SOMEWHAT OVERDUE. NO REAL REASON FOR MY ON-LINE ABSENCE OF LATE... IF YOU CAN CALL IT THAT, CONSIDERING THAT I HAVE BEEN READING ALL THE GROUP MAILS. AS I'VE SAID BEFORE, PROCRASTINATION IS INCREDIBLY ADDICTIVE, AND LAZINESS IS A POTENT SEED. SO I HAVE ALL THESE MAILS IN MY INBOX (BESIDES THE STUPID FORWARDS AND THE SPAM, THAT IS), THAT I NEED TO REPLY TO, BUT CAN'T DECIDE WHICH ONE TO ANSWER FIRST. AS A RESULT I DON'T REPLY TO ANY ONE OF THEM. I HAVE A SIMILAR SITUATION ON THE ACADEMIC FRONT, WITH OVER A DOZEN BACK PAPERS... WELL I GOTTA START SOMEWHERE, I GUESS, SO HERE'S ALL THE LATEST NEWS FROM THIS QUAIN T LITTLE HARYANAVI VILLAGE I LIVE IN, CALLED GURGAON.

TO KEEP MY ASS FROM SENDING OUT ROOTS INTO MY BEDROOM FLOOR, I JOINED THIS CALL CENTRE CALLED (UNFORTUNATELY) HERO ITES, AROUND THE 20TH OF JUNE. AS A RESULT, I SPEND MY NIGHTS TALKING TO IRATE AMERICANS, AND MY DAYS TOSSING AND TURNING THROUGH NIGHT(?)MARES ABOUT IRATE AMERICANS. MY BRAIN FEELS LIKE IT'S SHRINK WRAPPED... BELIEVE ME, A CALL CENTRE ISN'T EXACTLY AN INTELLECTUAL GOLDMINE. ANYWAY, AT THE END OF THIS MONTH I PLAN TO QUIT THIS JOB... AND MAYBE TAKE UP ANOTHER AT A BETTER CALL CENTRE. THE RATIONALE BEHIND THAT IS THAT THE TRAINING PERIOD IN MOST CALL CENTRES IS WHEN YOU GET PAID TO DO NOTHING, AS OPPOSED TO RIGHT NOW WHERE I HAVE TO TAKE CALLS FOR EIGHT HOURS A NIGHT. BUT THAT'S STILL TENTATIVE... AS OF NOW I'M LEANING TOWARDS MAYBE CONCENTRATING MORE ON THE SUPPLEES THAT I HAVE TO CLEAR, WHICH IS SOMETHING I'LL BE DOING ANYWAY BY THE END OF NEXT MONTH (THAT IS, QUITTING THE BPO INDUSTRY ALTO-

GETHER). ONCE I GET MY SALARY AT THE END OF THIS MONTH AND GO BUY SOME BADLY NEEDED EQUIPMENT FOR MY OLD BEAT-UP GUITAR, I REALLY WOULDN'T HAVE MUCH USE FOR POCKET MONEY... ALTHOUGH I MIGHT FEEL DIFFERENTLY LATER. WHATEVER, I STILL HAVE A WEEK TO THINK ABOUT THAT, SO I'M GONNA PUT THAT OFF LIKE EVERYTHING ELSE. IN THE MEANTIME, IF PUNDU OR TOMAR WANT TO APPLY FOR A CHASE CREDIT CARD, THEY MIGHT JUST HEAR A FAMILIAR VOICE ON THE OTHER END OF THE TOLL-FREE LINE.

BESIDES THAT, LIFE IS PRETTY MUCH STAGNANT. I DO OTHER STUFF, BUT ONLY IN LITTLE SNATCHES... READ A FEW PAGES OF A NOVEL, FLIP MOROSELY THROUGH SEDRA AND SMITH, STRUM MY GUITAR, LISTEN TO THE BEATLES, READ MY MAIL. AND IT'S REALLY SOMETHING TO SEE THE INCREASE IN TRAFFIC ON MIS_12D... KUDOS TO VENU FOR STARTING THE LINUX DISCUSSION. WE'VE TALKED ABOUT THAT EARLIER, WHEN YOU WERE TRAINING AT QUASAR, SO YOU PROBABLY KNOW THAT I AM SOMETHING OF A PASSIVE SUPPORTER OF THE FLOSS MOVEMENT. I DO AGREE WITH NIKIT (TO AN EXTENT) ABOUT THE MOB MENTALITY PHENOMENON... THERE ARE INDEED A LOT OF WANNABES WHO EXTOL THE VIRTUES OF LINUX WITHOUT EVER LOOKING BEYOND KDE. THAT HAVING BEEN SAID, YOU CAN'T JUDGE A PHENOMENON BY ITS FAN FOLLOWING... SPEND A FEW DAYS/WEEKS JUST LOOKING AROUND IN LINUX, WITHOUT NECESSARILY TRYING TO BE PRODUCTIVE, AND YOU'LL SEE THE BEAUTY OF IT... LIMITLESS POSSIBILITIES. I REMEMBER HOW INCREDIBLE IT FELT WHEN I GOT MY "WINDOWS-ONLY" PCI MODEM TO WORK ON REDHAT 7.0... JUST BECAUSE SOMEONE ELSE WITH THE SAME PROBLEM HAD TAKEN IT UPON HIMSELF TO WRITE A DEVICE DRIVER. THAT IS THE POINT BEHIND THE CULT STATUS THAT LINUX HAS, AS OPPOSED TO MICROSOFT'S MARKETING SHOWCASES. FREE SOFTWARE ISN'T ABOUT AN ALTERNATIVE TO PIRACY, IT'S ABOUT CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT, FREE FROM THE SHACKLES OF CORPORATE RED-TAPISM. WHEN IT COMES TO DESKTOP PRODUCTIVITY, I GUESS IT'S ALL ABOUT INDIVIDUAL CHOICE... I MEAN, IF YOU ARE A MATLAB USER, FOR EXAMPLE, CHANCES ARE YOU WOULDN'T WANT TO SWITCH TO THE GNU PLATFORM AND LOOK FOR OPEN-SOURCE ALTERNATIVES, THOUGH IF YOU DID, YOU'D PROBABLY FIND THEM. EVERYTHING, MORE OR LESS, HAS BEEN PORTED FROM ONE PLATFORM TO THE OTHER. ON THE OTHER HAND, AT AN ENTERPRISE LEVEL, LINUX WILL LEAVE MICROSOFT FAR BEHIND, AND IN FACT, HAS ALREADY MANAGED TO DO THAT TO A LARGE EXTENT, EVEN IN INDIA. INCIDENTALLY, I CURRENTLY RUN ONLY WINDOWS 98 ON A P-II/350/32 MB/4 GB, SINCE I DO LITTLE MORE THAN LISTEN TO MUSIC

OR CHECK MAIL. BY THE WAY, IF YOU'RE STILL TRYING TO REMOVE LINUX, YOU DON'T REALLY NEED PARTITION MAGIC. JUST USE FDISK (FROM YOUR WINDOWS PARTITION)... BUT BE CAREFUL.

I SHOULD BE WRAPPING THIS MAMMOTH UP REASONABLY SOON. VENU, YOU GOT THE BIRTHDAYS REASONABLY RIGHT, EXCEPT FOR NIKIT'S "JAALI JANAMDIN" - THAT'S 18TH AUGUST, SAME DAY AS MINE. I MET NIKIT A COUPE OF TIMES... SHOULD MEET AGAIN, IT'S JUST THAT THE RAIN PISSES ME OFF. I HATE THE MONSOON SEASON. PEOPLE FURTHER DOWN SOUTH, I HOPE YOU DON'T FEEL THE SAME WAY, COZ YOU MUST BE GETTING DRENCHED IN RAIN RIGHT ABOUT NOW.

TILL LATER,
SATYA

PS: BTW VENU, MY MOM KEEPS ASKING ME ABOUT HOW/WHAT THE REST OF YOUR FAMILY IS DOING, AND I HATE TO ADMIT IT BUT I HAVEN'T A CLUE... SOME HELP, PLEASE?

PPS: PURKI, IF YOU'RE READING THIS, IT MIGHT BE TIME FOR YOUR BI-ANNUAL COMMUNIQUE TO YOUR SCHOOL FRIENDS. WHAT SAY?