

Computing for Human Services

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Electrical and Computer Engineering-IIUM University

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Published by:
IIUM Press
International Islamic University Malaysia

First Edition, 2011
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Perpustakaan Negara Malaysia

Cataloguing-in-Publication Data

ISBN:978- 967-418-161-1

Member of Majlis Penerbitan Ilmiah Malaysia – MAPIM
(Malaysian Scholarly Publishing Council)

Printed by :

IIUM PRINTING SDN. BHD.

No. 1, Jalan Industri Batu Caves 1/3

Taman Perindustrian Batu Caves

Batu Caves Centre Point

68100 Batu Caves

Selangor Darul Ehsan

Book Contents

Chapter No	Chapter Title, Author(s)	Page No
	Book Contents	v
	Preface	ix

Part I

Computing to Serve Educational Aspects

Chapter 1	Status of Higher Education in Developing and Islamic World, <i>Shihab A. Hameed</i>	3
Chapter 2	Planning the Future of Higher Education in Developing and Islamic World, <i>Shihab A. Hameed</i>	13
Chapter 3	Internet Impact on Education, <i>Shihab A. Hameed</i>	21
Chapter 4	Eliminating Internet Weakness in Education, <i>Shihab A. Hameed</i>	29
Chapter 5	Computing Role in Educating Deaf Children, <i>Haidawati Mohamad Nasir, Othman Omran Khalifa, Shihab A. Hameed</i>	37
Chapter 6	Management of Research and Development in Educational Organizations, <i>Rashid A. Saeed, Othman O. Khalifa, Aisha Hassan, Shihab A. Hameed</i>	43
Chapter 7	Computer Implementable Quick Fourier Transform (QFT) for Engineering Educators <i>Abdulfattah A. Aboaba, Shihab A. Hameed, Othman O. Khalifa, Aisha H. Abdalla, Ado Dan-Isa, Jubril D. Jiya., James Katende, Abdulfattah B. Mustapha, & Abdullahi L. Amoo</i>	53
Chapter 8	Virtual-Learning Content Management System Using Problem-Based Learning (PBL), <i>Norul Ashikin Bt Abu Kasim, Teddy Surya Gunawan</i>	63
Chapter 9	Development of Final Year Project Portal for Engineering Program, <i>Teddy Surya Gunawan, Abdul Mutholib, Mira Kartiwi</i>	71

Part II
Computing to Serve Ethical, Social, and Environmental Aspects

Chapter 10	Software Engineering and Ethical Values, <i>Shihab A. Hameed</i>	83
Chapter 11	New Model for Software Engineering Ethical Principles <i>Shihab A. Hameed</i>	91
Chapter 12	Hajj and Information Technologies: Analytical Study, <i>Shihab A. Hameed</i>	101
Chapter 13	Framework for Comprehensive Hajj Model with ICT, <i>Shihab A. Hameed</i>	109
Chapter 14	RFID for Hajj Identification Guide Information and Personnel Announcement, <i>Dzul I'zzat Bin Julaihi, Ahmad F. Abdul Rahman, Othman O. Khalifa</i>	121
Chapter 15	Development of Online Application for Muslim Traveler with UML Diagram, <i>Teddy Surya Gunawan, Afif Abul Fattah Che Omar, Shihab A. Hameed, Mira Kartiwi</i>	133
Chapter 16	Computers and Electronic Devices Waste: Fundamental Facts <i>Shihab A. Hameed</i>	139
Chapter 17	Computers and Electronic Devices Waste: Analysis and Solution, <i>Shihab A. Hameed</i>	149
Chapter 18	ICT and Environmental Problem, <i>Shihab A. Hameed</i>	157
Chapter 19	Strategy for Green ICT: An Islamic View, <i>Shihab A. Hameed</i>	165

Part III
Computing to Serve Healthcare and Medical Aspects

Chapter 20	Fundamental to Medical Data Centre, <i>Shihab A. Hameed, Waleed A. Badurik</i>	175
Chapter 21	Network Based Telemedicine for Fetal ECG Monitoring, <i>M. I. Ibrahimy, S. M. A. Motakabber</i>	185
Chapter 22	Electronic Patient Medical Record to facilitate Patient Monitoring, <i>Shihab A. Hameed, Shazana Mustafa, Aina Mardhiyah, Vladimer Miho, Aisha Hassan</i>	195

Chapter 23	Developing EPMR to Serve Effective Patient Monitoring Database, <i>Shihab A. Hameed, Shazana Mustafa, Aina Mardhiyah, Vladimer Miho</i>	203
Chapter 24	Interactive Web-Based Model for Medical Emergency, <i>Shihab A. Hameed, Shahina shabnam, Nur hafizah Chek Nuh , Nur Huda Bt Salim</i>	209
Chapter 25	Mobile Web Model to Serve Healthcare, <i>Shihab A. Hameed, Vladimer Miho</i>	221
Chapter 26	SMS to Facilitate Healthcare and Emergency, <i>Shihab A. Hameed, Shahina Shabnam Bt Mohd Sharifudeen, Nur hafizah Chek Nuh , Nur Huda Bt Salim, Aisha Hassan, Othman Khalifa</i>	229

Part IV

Computing to Serve Security and Privacy Aspects

Chapter 27	Wireless Technology to Scure Emergency and Guidance, <i>Shihab A. Hameed, B. A. Aliyu</i>	237
Chapter 28	Authentication Enhancement for Medical Data Centers, <i>Shihab A. Hameed, Waleed A. Badurik</i>	245
Chapter 29	Integrated Authentication Model: Face Verification, <i>Shihab A. Hameed, Waleed A. Badurik</i>	255
Chapter 30	Confidentiality to Service Medical Emergency Model, <i>Shihab A. Hameed, Habib Yuchoh, Wajdi F. Al-Khateeb</i>	261
Chapter 31	Fundamental to Password based security <i>Shihab A. Hameed, Ahmed Fathi Zainazlan, Herman Sazwan nor rahim</i>	269
Chapter 32	Graphical Password Security Model, <i>Shihab A. Hameed, Ahmed Fathi Zainazlan, Herman Sazwan nor rahim</i>	277
Chapter 33	Automobile Monitoring and Tracking, <i>Shihab A. Hameed, Othman Khalifa, Aisha Hassan</i>	287

Part V
Computing to Serve Industrial and other Aspects

Chapter 34	Speech to Text to Sign Language, <i>Khalid Khalil Kamil, Othman O. Khalifa</i>	297
Chapter 35	Speech to Sign Language Interpreter System (SSLIS), <i>Khalid Khalil El-Darymli, Othman O. Khalifa and Hassan Enemosah</i>	313
Chapter 36	Speech Codec for a Voice over IP (VoIP) Systems, <i>Othman O. Khalifa, Shihab A. Hameed</i>	323
Chapter 37	Reconfigurable Platform in Embedded System, <i>Amelia Wong Azman</i>	329
Chapter 38	Smart Grid Communication Layer, <i>Norulhuda Lokeman, Norizan Mohd Hassan, Sigit PW Jarot</i>	337

Chapter 31

Fundamental to Password based security

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31.1. Introduction

In the previous chapter, an introduction to the password and the problem statement, objective and my scope of project is covered. Here, the discussion will be further about some literature review of graphical password and authentication methods used. Physical authentication such as key and doors can easily be determined, however, programs, software consists of text, audio, and video can be copied into new media, possibly leaving only the informational content itself to use in authentication. Various systems have been invented to allow authors to provide a means for readers to reliably authenticate that a given message originated from or was relayed by them [1]. In the context of security, access control is the ability to limit and control the access to host systems and applications via communications links. To achieve this, each entity trying to gain access must first be identified, or authenticated, so that access rights can be tailored to the individual. Access to it is therefore usually controlled by insisting on an authentication procedure to establish with some established degree of confidence the identity of the user, hence granting those privileges as may be authorized to that identity [2].

31.2. Passwords

A password is a secret word or string of characters that is used for authentication, to prove identity or gain access to a resource. The password must be kept secret from those not allowed access. In modern times, user names and passwords are commonly used by people during a log in process that controls access to protected computer operating systems, mobile phones, cable TV decoders or automated teller machines. A typical computer user may require passwords for many purposes: logging in to computer accounts, retrieving e-mail from servers, accessing programs, databases, networks, web sites, and even reading the morning newspaper online. Despite the name, there is no need for passwords to be actual words; indeed passwords which are not actual words may be harder to guess, a desirable property. Some passwords are formed from multiple words and may more accurately be