Microsoft TechEd-India 2010, Bangalore

Summary of Experience, By Anurup Gaurav

What'll it be like?

Ten of us were scheduled to attend TechEd-India 2010 (April 12-14 in Bangalore) -- nine in the Developer stream and one in the Architect stream. As the time drew nearer, social media sites were abuzz with **pre-TechEd excitement** and I was looking forward to the experience of being a part of "the premier-most technology conference conducted by Microsoft globally for Software Developers, Project Managers, Infrastructure Professionals, IT Managers, Solution and Infrastructure Architects, Designers, Students and Faculty Members" providing an opportunity to learn and "connect with other developers, IT professionals and Microsoft experts to expand opportunities, share best practices, spark innovation, and build relationships."

Hello, TechEd!

We reached Bangalore the previous day and settled down swiftly to be ready for the early-morning event. By 8:30 am next morning about 3000 technology professionals from all over India and abroad had descended on Hotel LaLiT Ashok, the venue for the 3-day technology extravaganza and one of the finest five-star hotels in Bangalore. After a quick registration process, the event got off to a **grand opening** to the tune of heart-throbbing music and a keynote by S. Somasegar, Senior Vice President, Microsoft Corporation. The announcement of Visual Studio 2010 and overview of some of its exciting new features followed shortly, something any .NET professional worth their salt would have been waiting for all these months. The welcome session was interspersed with wisdom ("/* Life runs on code */") and humour (HTML: How To Meet Ladies)!

Wonderful Learning Experience

The three days that followed would be one of the most memorable days of my life. A very **well-orchestrated event** with who's-who of the industry, keynotes by eminent speakers, the release and showcasing of world-class products, top technology and management presentations, patterns-and-practices insights, panel discussions on tomorrow's technologies, hands-on labs, community tracks, user demos, opportunity to meet Microsoft product development team members, tips and tricks, and the list goes on...

In the **Architect stream**, in which I was the sole representative of Mindfire, presenters with immense experience and fruit-ladden-tree humility shared their views on emerging trends and best practices, e.g. Cloud Computing, Windows Azure, Concept Visualization, Microsoft Web Platform, Application Architecture Guide, Enterprise Library 5.0, Patterns and Practices, Prism, Architect Contest, etc. Some of my favourite sessions were Somesagar's keynote, Ashok Soota's life and learnings, Sam Pitroda's next wave of innovations, Anandan Kumaran's "The Future of IT", S. Ranganathan's "High Impact Decisions", Demo Extravaganza, etc.

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During the three days, the venue was also home to a thriving **Microsoft Partner Network** (including but not limited to Infragistics, Telerik, Micro Focus, Intel, Sapient, Mindtree, etc) who showcased their latest and greatest products and innovations.

The **venue had a life** of its own, with a campus-like, or maybe a Redmond-like, super-charged atmosphere, with the theme Learn-Connect-Explore-Evolve permeating the 10-acre oasis. There were geeks and geeks as far as the eye could see! Apart from attending the primary technology sessions, one also had the opportunity of visiting Microsoft and Partner Network showcases, taking quizzes, playing with Microsoft Surface, collecting "Microsoft Learning Dollars" and exchanging them for goodies! Sumptuous buffet over sprawling landscaped greens, networking with presenters and participants, bumping into old friends working elsewhere in the country were just some of the bonuses.

We, the ten **Mindfireans** across Bhubaneswar and Delhi centres representing our organization, thoroughly enjoyed the shared camaraderie and also the opportunity to know each other better.

Like All Good Things In Life...

And, like all good things in life, **it ended**. Leaving behind everlasting memories of a wonderful learning experience. Well, I would've loved a Gates or Ballmer thrown in, but what's future for! We returned... recharged, refuelled, and if I may say, evolved. It gave me an opportunity to know how much I did not know and what lies ahead. Putting S. Ranganathan's "High Impact Decisions" to immediate use, I decided: TechEd 2010 will not be my last... Or maybe as Arnold Schwarzenegger would put it, **I'll be back!**

Bangalore, Bangalore!

I have lived in Bangalore for about a year, but that was a decade ago. A lot of water had flowed under the bridge since and **Bangalore has changed in significant ways**. Though I did not have the time to leisurely explore the place this time (and that's okay keeping the purpose in mind), I relived some old memories and made some new ones.

Message to Future Mindfireans

If technology is your **passion**, if you want to have a **happy and stable** career and life, if **growth** is your mantra,... then Mindfire is the place to be in! I have come across very few companies that **nurture** and **invest in** their **youth** as much as Mindfire does. If you have the **fire**, we have the **fuel**. Come, be a part of us. Give your career the **momentum** it needs. Who knows, six months down the line **YOU** would be Wow-ing us with your experiences at Microsoft TechEd and your conversations with Bill Gates :)