**TechCentral**

Tuesday July 6, 2010

# DNS solution trumps cloud computing competition



BIG WIN: First prize winner Amir with Open Source Developer's Club president Harisfazillah Jamel at the prize giving ceremony in Kuala Lumpur.

**KUALA LUMPUR**: An open-source Domain Name Service (DNS) hosting solution built on Microsoft Corp's cloud-computing platform won the first prize in the software giant's Milking the Cloud competition.

Amir Ahmad, 30, a self-employed applications developer, beat 34 other entrants from Malaysia, Indonesia and the Philippines with his solution.

His solution offers load-balancing services for multiple domain names. Load balancing is a process which distributes computing workload evenly across several servers.

Users also get to host their domain for free on a Windows Azure server till next month. There are now about 3,000 users. e-Mail and payment hosting services will be added in the near-future.

Amir received a cash prize of US$2,222 (RM7,227).

Second prize winner was 22-year-old Indonesian software engineering student Aprian Novandi, who created a mobile, location-based shop-finder for applications. He took home a cash prize of US$1,111 (RM3,613).

The third prize of US$555 (RM1,845) went to 31-year-old Mara University of Technology Computer Science lecturer Mohd Ali Isa.

He won for an application that aggregates price information on hard disks, processors and memory cards from computer shops in Low Yatt Plaza.

"Rather than visit Low Yatt and compare dozens of brochures, all the customer has to do to compare prices is go to the website," he explained.

The winners also received plaques, certificates from the Open Source Developer's Club (OSDC.my) and software applications from apps developer ZendPHP.

The Milking the Cloud competition was to get open-source application developers to see the benefits of working in the cloud, eliminating the limitations of working on a single server, among others.

The competition is a collaboration between Microsoft Malaysia and the Malaysian Open Source Conference 2010. The month-long regional competition ran from May 28 to June 29.

The applications were judged based on creativity, functionality, and commercial potential by a combination of judges from the industry, as well as the general public.

The competition was open to individuals, teams, and companies from Malaysia, Singapore, Brunei, Vietnam, Thailand, Indonesia, South Korea, Australia and New Zealand.