

NEWS RELEASE

BCNET Broadband Innovation Challenge winners announced

For immediate release.

April 28, 2008 (Vancouver, BC) BCNET honoured BC's best and brightest computing students last week in an awards ceremony for the BCNET Broadband Innovation Challenge. The annual Broadband Innovation Challenge seeks applications from students who have developed computer applications that utilize super-broadband networks, like the network that BCNET operates provincially. In addition to a combined \$10,000 in prize money, the winning competitors in the challenge walk away with an extra boost of confidence to pursue their career goals.

"The biggest thing I learned about students when I worked in private industry," says Donald Acton, an Instructor of Computer Science at UBC, "is that students know more than they think they do. They just need the confidence to realize this." Donald Acton is the chair of the adjudication committee for the Broadband Innovation Challenge, a competition that gives students an opportunity to prove their smarts to the technology industry in BC - and to themselves.

The top prize winner in the graduate category is Brendan Cully, a PhD student at UBC, for his application "SecondSite." SecondSite uses a virtualization platform for seamless, efficient disaster recovery. Second place in the graduate category is awarded to Samer Al-Kiswany, a Masters student at UBC, for his application "The Scavenged File System." The Scavenged File System is an alternative storage system that is more economical and reliable than systems currently implemented in business environments.

The first place undergraduate award goes to Charles Bihis, Victor Chan, Jason Hui and Andrew Tjia from UBC for their photo-sharing application, "Picture2Picture." Picture2 Picture improves on photo-sharing applications like Flickr by cutting out the need for a central server and with it, a single-point of failure. Two undergraduate projects tied for second place; "Distributed Content Delivery and Processing System" from Daniel Dent, Chris Binckly, and Ian South-Dickinson (UBC) and "Ramet" from Taivo Evard, Yanick Berube, and Tane Adam (UBC).

Honourable mentions are awarded to Yasser Hajivalizadeh from UVic for his project, "Xbox overlay" and Travis Brown from SFU for "InsaneFS."

The BCNET Broadband Innovation Challenge is generously sponsored by Sun Microsystems, TELUS, Shaw, Apple, SGI, Juniper Networks, Wimba, and Cisco Systems.

About BCNET

BCNET builds high-performance networks for British Columbia's (BC) research and higher education institutes - enabling connections, collaborations and innovation by facilitating technological advancement. Collectively funded by BC's universities, federal and provincial governments, BCNET is a not-for-profit society that manages the development of the province's high-speed dedicated Optical Regional Advanced Network (ORAN). The ORAN links researchers and educators in BC across the country and globally; and enables world class projects in the areas of science, health, physics and education. For more information, please visit our website at www.bc.net.

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