SMART NATION
INITIATIVES IN SINGAPORE

CHEAT SHEET

Smart Nation initiative was launched by Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong on 24 November 2014. The aim is to build a "nation where people live meaningful and fulfilled lives, enabled seamlessly by technology, offering exciting opportunities for all."[1] It is an environment where, in our daily living, networks of sensors and smart devices enable us to live sustainably and comfortably; in our communities, technology will enable more people to connect to one another more easily and intensely; and in our future, we can create possibilities for ourselves beyond what we imagined possible.

VISIONS OF A SMART NATION[2]

1ST
Support for seniors

Help seniors through technology such as integration sensors apps and remote monitoring modes

2ND
Mobility via transportation breakthroughs

Providing information for commuters, through responsive management of public transport systems

3RD
Safe and secure data marketplace

To become a safe and secure data marketplace where data sets are shared with the public to build applications and services

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Smart Nation trials in Jurong
The Jurong Lake area has been selected to carry out some 15 trials, to be managed by the former Infocomm Development Authority under the Smart Nation initiative.[3]

GovTech Initiatives
From online forms to data sharing platforms, these are some of the initiatives to make life easier for people and businesses to operate in the cyber environment.[4]

MyInfo
Aim: MyInfo is a one-stop data platform for SingPass holders. The digital services pertain to every Singaporean supporting applications such as Polytechnic admission, Baby Bonus Scheme, application for flats and updating contact details.

Parents Gateway
Aim: To make it easier for parents to pay school fees and sign consent forms. This service is still being tested as of 2016.

National Trade Platform
Aim: To provide information on trade matters for firms in the trade and logistics industry. This project is still in working stage.

Here's an example of how technology can be applied in security monitoring.[5]

Traditional method of security monitoring

Centralised monitoring system

Boosting surveillance is a key part of Singapore's counter-terrorism strategy, especially crucial as the threat of a terror attack is at its highest level in recent times.

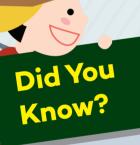Advantages of a centralised monitoring system

24hr

▶ Monitoring is done on 24-hour basis

▶ Reduces the need for the presence of security guards on the premise, hence adopting a manpower-lean approach

▶ Programming of the system can deter and manage situations by playing loud recorded warnings and shining blinding lights

Did You Know?

Singapore's information technology initiatives evolved in three phases:[6]

Phase 1
1981 to 1985

Civil Service Computerisation Programme

The National Computer Board was established.

GOAL: To implement computerisation in government agencies to increase productivity and improve the quality of public services.

▶ Phase 2
1986 to 1990

National Information Technology Plan

GOAL: Develop a strong export-oriented IT industry and improve business productivity through IT application.

The shift was from the public sector to the private sector. By the early 1990s, Singapore had a thriving IT industry with a growing number of indigenous IT firms exporting to the region, the United States of America and Europe.

▶ Phase 3
Since 1991 ...

Launch of IT2000 Masterplan

Singapore was to be transformed into an intelligent island where IT permeates every aspect of the society – at home, work, and play.

GOAL: Apply IT extensively in order to enhance national competitiveness and to improve the quality of life of Singaporeans.

The current technological elements include broadband networks, multimedia information, telecomputing, and technical standards.

Infocomm 21 strategy has increased Internet connectivity across Singapore. At least 87 percent of households have at least one computer, and 88 percent has broadband access at home.

INFORMATION LITERACY
TIPS ON EVALUATING SOURCES

Before the emergence of the Internet and Social Media, news was mostly spread by word of mouth. There were cases where news became distorted or snippets of truth being taken out of context. In such cases, the false news has resulted in dire consequences such as riots, which occurred in Singapore in 1950 and 1964.[7]

Here are some recommended ways to evaluate sources:

Who sent the email?
Check on the sender's email address before clicking on any link sent to you via email. Is sender using public account or government email addresses?

Where is it hosted?
Look at the uniform resource locator (URL) of the website. The domain 'gov.sg' indicates that the website host is from a government agency in Singapore.

How secure is the site?
For transactions which require online payment, check that the site is secured.

Why is it written so poorly?
Websites that are poorly written with grammatical errors indicate that they may not be genuine and are not put up professionally.

What is the quality of the content?
Look out for images that are of poor quality. Fake websites are usually put up in haste and contain poor quality images. If a logo from an established government agency is used, make sure that it is of high resolution.

When was the site put up?
Internet sites are used to communicate messages to the masses. These could be in the form of text, graphics and even audio visuals. Before you take any action, reflect on the real meaning behind the messages shared in the right context such as time, culture and environment.

Disclaimer: This publication is intended for education purposes only. Readers are advised to refer to the official sources for more updates on this topic.

REFERENCES

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Source Look at its origins. Is it trustworthy?

Understand Know what you're reading. Search for clarity.

Research Dig deeper. Go beyond the initial source.

Evaluate Find the balance. Exercise fair judgement.

s.u.r.e.
Source · Understand · Research · Evaluate