

London parrot does online shopping by mimicking owner

London

A pet parrot managed to place an online shopping order by mimicking its owner on a voice-controlled smart speaker, a British newspaper reported yesterday.

Buddy the parrot ordered a £10 (\$13.50, 11.50 euro) set of gift boxes via Amazon's Alexa voice-controlled system, The Sun reported.

The mystery order triggered an inquest in Corienne

Pretorius's house in southeast London, but after ruling out her husband and son, she figured out Buddy was to blame after hearing him interact with the speaker.

"I couldn't believe it when I realised that Buddy had made an Amazon order," the South African said.

Users can shout commands to the Amazon Echo speaker to access a host of services. It responds to the name Alexa.

Footage on the Sun's website shows the parrot squawking "Alexa!" and the device next to his cage lighting up blue, indicating that it is listening for commands.

"Buddy said 'Alexa' and some gibberish, and the machine replied, 'What is it you want to order?'" Pretorius said.

She thought nothing more of it until she got a notification that an order had been placed

for some golden gift boxes.

"I laughed out loud because I knew then that it was Buddy."

Amazon said customers were asked to confirm a purchase by saying "yes", and the settings can be adjusted to turn off voice purchasing.

"Buddy is hilarious. We have a cat and he mimics that, too. He is such an attention-seeker. He also swears in Afrikaans. When we go to bed, he says, 'goodnight'," his owner said.



Corienne shows off the packages ordered by Buddy

EXPO

companies to showcase in Abu Dhabi event

Bahraini

Nass Marine Services Co. is participating in the upcoming Seatrade Offshore Marine & Workboats Middle East in Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Centre between 25th and 27th September 2017.

An artistic, 3D visualization of the new Nass Marine Services Co. facility to be opened in 2018.

More capacity

The specialised builder of vessels and barge is set to open the new facility in the year 2018 which will increase its annual building and repair capability to 40 barges and vessels instead of the current eighteen, in addition to providing maintenance, periodic repair and upgrade services to all customers.

“

This is going to be our first participation since expansion has started, and we are thrilled to demonstrate our future capabilities in the new facility,”

David McKay,
General Manager of Nass Marine Services Co.

Tailor-made

The in-house design office can provide standard design projects, as well as tailor-made constructions to meet any client specifications.

Nass Marine

Nass Marine Services Co. was established in 2006 and has the organisational infrastructure to deliver projects on time and within budget. The Company's skilled workforce of 400 craftsmen can build barges and the 520 - 700 ton-capacity, up to 70 meters long Marine Jetty for Mooring and Repairs.

eTransfers on the rise in Bahrain



Manama Bahrain's

Electronic Fund Transfer System (EFTS) has witnessed a remarkable growth in the first half of 2017, recording a noticeable increase in the number of transactions made through Fawri+, Fawri and Fawateer systems, according to a report by the Central Bank of Bahrain.

EFTS, launched on 5 November 2015, accommodates customer fund transfers within local banks through smart phones, computers or tablets. The facility allows retail bank customers to instantly transfer funds, throughout the day, from their bank accounts to recipient accounts in any other bank in just 30 seconds.

The number of Fawri+ transactions amounted to

approximately 153 thousand, worth about BD37.9 million during the first half of 2017, a growth of 211pc when compared to the value of transactions during the first half of 2016. "Fawri+" allows users to transfer a maximum total amount of 1,000 Bahraini Dinars per day.

The number of Fawri transactions was 2.4 million, worth about BD4.6 billion during the first half of 2017, which was a growth of 44pc compared to the value of transactions during the same period of 2016. "Fawri" allows transferring funds to a single or multiple recipients, such as payment of salaries, within the same bank business day or future date.

As for Fawateer, the number of transactions was around 553.2 thousand, worth about BD29.7 million during the first half of 2017,

a growth of 458pc compared to the value of transactions during the same period of 2016. "Fawateer" service allows customers to pay their bills through an efficient and fast system. This service aggregates all the outstanding bills from different billers in order for the customer to pay these bills in one transaction within 30 seconds.

Commenting on the growth, Shaikh Salman bin Isa Al Khalifa, Executive Director of Banking Operations at the Central Bank of Bahrain, said: "The central bank's policy is to continuously develop all banking transactions by introducing the latest technologies in the field of payment and settlement systems, in order to significantly benefit the local economy."

The Central Bank of Bahrain in collaboration with the BENEFIT COMPANY has initiated the systems.

BIC and Think Pink attempt Guinness Record for charity

Manama Bahrain International Circuit (BIC) hosts on Saturday at 3pm, one of the biggest charity initiatives ever to take place on the island.

In cooperation with Think Pink Bahrain, a Guinness World Record will be attempted as the community comes together to build the largest pink chain ribbon which aims to help raise

breast cancer awareness to a whole other level in Bahrain and across the Gulf.

With the aim of reaching 10kms overall and with each piece of ribbon measuring 20 inches, over 60,000 pieces combined will be needed to achieve the complete distance.

Saturday's event marks the first national scale community initiative in the Kingdom - with both

individuals and corporate entities participating together. It not only raises awareness for breast cancer but it also donates to the Bahrain Breast Cancer Society.

Think Pink Bahrain is calling on societies, community groups and individuals to support this attempt. For more info, visit www.bahraingp.com or call the BIC Hotline on +973-17-450000.