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The medical advisor on your wrist

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SERI KEMBANGAN: Applied research organisation Mimos Bhd is working on commercialising a medical semantics application on a wrist-watch-sized computer which was developed at its labs over the last six months.

Dickson Lukose, Mimos head of knowledge technology cluster, said: "Currently, there are not enough professionals to help medical interns, so we have come up with this portable computer that acts as a medical advisor."

According to him, the students have only to input some basic observations on their patients into the mini-computer and they will get a medical diagnosis in a matter of microseconds.

"The software we designed pulls relevant information from 11 separate medical databases on the Internet and several doctors also helped with the project," he said.

"A doctor diagnoses by observing the symptoms of a patient and performing a series of tests. We are incorporating this kind of data processing into our system; we have input 20 to 30 years of medical experience into the software."

Mimos is working with virtual autopsy company Infovalley Sdn Bhd and e-knowledge firm In-Fusion Sdn Bhd to commercialise the product.

While Mimos came up with the prototype, Infovalley and In-Fusion have licensed the technology and are looking to introduce the product into the marketplace.

Lukose said the semantic application would be used for cardio-vascular and paediatric patients.

Mimos will be demonstrating the product in December at its labs and wants to get it into medical training colleges early next year.

It claimed it can adapt its semantic application to other industries, such as finance, agriculture, automotive and public safety.

Semantics is all about making a computer behave more intelligently, said Datuk Abdul Wahab, Mimos president and chief executive officer.

"Semantic technology goes beyond collecting data. It's about taking input and making a decision. Intelligence in software is missing today," he said.

He was speaking at the Mimos Semantics Symposium last Wednesday. The event attracted more than 100 participants from government and industry bodies, as well as the academia and students.