

# NIZAR M. AWARTANI

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**Education:** Ph.D. In Computer Science  
Lehigh University, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, USA 1986  
M.S. In Computing Science  
Lehigh University, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, USA 1981  
B.Sc. In Mathematics  
University of Jordan, Amman, Jordan, 1977

## Professional Experience:

Quality Improvement Fund (QIF) – Ministry of Higher Education , 2007-Current

- Project manager of an ongoing joint project between An-Najah & Palestine Polytechnic Universities aiming at establishing an IT Incubation facility. More than 30 applications submitted for incubation resulting in eight projects hosted and are being developed into new ventures. 2007-2010
- Steering Committee Member & Representative of An-Najah University in a project seeking to develop an Innovative Software Engineering Center (ISEC) in both An-Najah & Palestine Polytechnic Universities. More than 30 engineers at An-Najah went through three stages of the training program. Trainees are practicing the expertise gained by implementing a Management Information System serving the public relations office at An-Najah University.
- Steering committee member and representative of An-Najah University in a project with a goal of developing a Learning Innovation Team (LIT) in three local universities. After completing the project the experience will be disseminated to other universities and high schools in the West Bank.

Korean Palestinian IT Executive Director  
Institute of Excellence  
(KPITE) 2006-2008:

- Established the Korean Palestinian IT Institute of Excellence, an up-to-date center that provides IT training in addition to being an IT base for research and development.
- Proposed and directed a multimedia training project for in-service school teachers to enhance their teaching capabilities. The project was sponsored by ANERA and implemented by educational and IT professionals.
- Team member in (SPEP) project aimed at supporting the Palestinian High School education system. This project is funded by the Italian government.

An-Najah University  
1994 - Current

Assistant Professor in Computer Science

- Chaired and established the department.
- Taught computer science courses such as: Compilers, Computer Graphics, Data Structures, Special Topics in Automata Theory, Algorithms, Discrete mathematics, Multimedia, and Programming.
- Supervised graduation projects implemented by senior students.
- Conducted training programs in IT.
- Introduced and implemented the Electronic Mail System at the university.
- Represented the university in several committees such as the Council of Higher Education Telecommunications Committee.
- Board of advisors for PASNET committee.
- Co-developed a pilot multimedia courseware for Civil Engineering students.
- Selected to chair the department of Computer Science in addition to the Computer Information Systems Department. Sep 2003 - Sep 2004

Universal Group  
2004-2005:

Information Technology Consultant on "PHYSICAL DAMAGE UPDATING FOR WEST BANK AND GAZA" project. Worked on gathering, storing and analyzing information about physical damage due to Israeli incursion. Designed reports from the database.

Zaytona Soft  
1996-2004:

Co-Founder and President/CEO of Zaytona Soft Company LLC to provide services related to Information Technology and Internet.

- Provided consultations in Networks to:
  - The Ministry of Planning,
  - Al-Ayyam newspaper, and
  - Center for Palestinian Research and Studies.
- Zaytona Soft was the first Internet Service Provider in Palestine.
- Managed in house solution to network problems such as concurrent user login on the access servers.
- Supervised the design of several websites for local and international businesses.
- Managed information systems for the company and its clients, these systems involve: Network management, prepaid and postpaid subscribers database system, web servers, mail servers.

Al-Quds University,  
(1983-1984) & (1986-  
1993)

Assistant Professor in Computer science.

- Established the first Computer Science Department in Palestine, in 1983.
- Chaired the department (1983-1984) & 1991-1993).
- Taught Computer Science courses such as: Compilers, Computer Graphics, Data Structures, Special Topics in Computer Security and Cryptography, Algorithms, Discrete Mathematics, and Programming.
- Supervised senior students' graduation projects.
- Assisted the Hebron Polytechnic University to initiate the computer systems engineering program that leads to a BS degree.

Kuwait University, 1981-1983  
AJAF School, 77-78

Professor's assistant in computer science.  
Taught mathematics courses in the Royal Jordan Air Force School.

**Professional Training**

Attended and conducted several professional training courses such as UNIX, NT, and Database Systems.

A study visit to Malaysia November 2008 to meet Universities & IT companies and learn from the Malaysian experience in preparing software engineers to meet local and international markets. Also, to find out their expectation of IT graduates. The purpose of the study was to provide insight on developing the QIF sponsored ISEC training program and academic curriculum.

KOICA Institution

A study visit to South Korea June 2005 in preparation of establishment of an IT center of excellence funded by KOICA. The study focused on new IT technology trends such as ubiquitous computing.

A study visit to South Korea September 2006. Lead a technical team in preparation of administrating the IT center of excellence funded by KOICA. The study focused on training best practices. Setting up procedures and forms in order to technically run the IT center.

**Awards:**

Fullbright Scholarship 93-94

Research scholar, The George Washington University. Conducted research on Multimedia. Developed the expertise needed to establish and commercialize the Internet Service in Palestine.

AMIDEAST Scholarship 84-86

Obtained Ph.D. degree in computer science from Lehigh University with a specialization on program semantics.

**Publications:**

1. "Towards the Representation of LISP semantics". Ph.D. dissertation 1986, Lehigh University.
2. "The Development of Computer Systems Engineering program in the West Bank" with A. D. Abdallah, proceeding of the MELCON 1991 Mediterranean Electronically Conference, Liublina, Yugoslavia. 1991
3. Developing a Pilot Multimedia Tool for Engineering Education, Sameer Abu-Eisheh, Osama A. Abaza, and Nizar Awartani, Conference on The Instructional Process in the Internet Age, May -2001, An-Najah National University, Nablus, Palestine
4. Interdisciplinary Multimedia BS Program. An accepted paper. International digital media conference in Egypt. 2005
5. The Software Industry: problems and solutions. The Palestinian Conference for Development and Reconstruction in the West Bank. 2006