

## **Has the Glory Gone Out of Working In IT?**

An anonymous reader writes to wonder if the glory has gone out of IT. One blogger remembered his first impression upon entering a profession in IT that made it seem like the place to be with a new shiny around every corner. What experiences have others had? Has a more pervasive technical culture forced our IT gurus into obsolescence?

Read more of this story at [Slashdot](#).

## **Bad PC Sales Staff Exposed**

Barence writes "An undercover investigation has revealed how Dell's online sales staff take liberties with the truth when trying to sell customers new PCs. One member of staff told an undercover reporter that he would need a PC with a good graphics card to download digital photos. Another, who was more incompetent than devious, was asked how many photos could be stored on a 250GB hard disk. 'Its[sic] on average 2 MB then 1024 MB \* 2,' came the bewildering reply. Meanwhile, a sales assistant at supermarket Tesco told the reporter that netbooks got their name because 'a Japanese man on a plane fell asleep with a laptop on his thighs and was horribly burned, so the industry has dropped the name laptop.'"

Read more of this story at [Slashdot](#).

## **NASA Wants Your Ambitious High-Tech Contest Ideas**

In an effort to create future Centennial Challenges, NASA is asking the general public to come up with (and submit) ambitious contest ideas. For the next six weeks, the Innovative Partnerships Program will be accepting ideas for new contests, with all submissions becoming public domain information. "According to NASA, any idea can be proposed for a prize competition that addresses challenges related to the mission of NASA in aeronautics, exploration, science, or space operations. Crosscutting topics or those that

also address related national or global needs are especially valuable. The challenges must require basic and applied research, technology development or prototype demonstrations."

Read more of this story at [Slashdot](#).

## **Schneier On Un-Authentication**

Trailrunner7 writes "Bruce Schenier writes on Threatpost.com: 'In computer security, a lot of effort is spent on the authentication problem. Whether it is passwords, secure tokens, secret questions, image mnemonics, or something else, engineers are continually coming up with more complicated and hopefully more secure ways for you to prove you are who you say you are over the Internet. This is important stuff, as anyone with an online bank account or remote corporate network knows. But a lot less thought and work have gone into the other end of the problem: how do you tell the system on the other end of the line that you are no longer there? How do you un-authenticate yourself? My home computer requires me to log out or turn my computer off when I want to un-authenticate. This works for me because I know enough to do it, but lots of people just leave their computer on and running when they walk away. As a result, many office computers are left logged in when people go to lunch, or when they go home for the night. This, obviously, is a security vulnerability.'"

Read more of this story at [Slashdot](#).

## **Iran's Nuclear Ambitions**

selven wrote in with something a bit offtopic for Slashdot, but I figured it's worth a discussion today. He writes "Following Iran's revelation regarding its secret nuclear enrichment plant, western leaders are banding together against it, saying that it violates Articles 2 and 3 of the Non-Proliferation Treaty and suggesting serious sanctions against the country if it refuses to back down on its uranium enrichment program. Iran maintains that its nuclear program is for peaceful purposes only and that it's not fair for the US to be criticizing them in this way while having thousands of nuclear warheads."

Read more of this story at Slashdot.

## **How To Save \$1 Trillion a Year With Open Source**

ChiefMonkeyGrinder writes "Cygnus founder Michael Tiemann estimates IT customers globally could save a trillion a year with open source or free source software." Not that a guy with a title like "VP of Open Source Affairs" at Red Hat would have a reason to be biased, but it's an interesting little read about a guy who's been doing this longer than you. Well, most of you anyway.

Read more of this story at Slashdot.

## **Reddit Javascript Exploit Spreading Virally**

Nithendil writes "guyhersh from reddit.com describes the situation (warning: title NSFW): Based on what I've seen today, here's what went down. Reddit user Empirical wrote javascript code where if you copied and pasted it into the address bar, you would instantly spam that comment by replying to all the comments on the page and submitting it. Later xssfinder posted a proof of concept where if you hovered over a link, it would automatically run a Javascript. He then got the brilliant idea to combine the two scripts together, tested it and it spread from there."

Read more of this story at Slashdot.

## **FreeBSD 8.0 vs. Ubuntu 9.10 Benchmarks**

An anonymous reader writes "Phoronix has brought benchmarks comparing the FreeBSD 8.0-RC and Ubuntu 9.10 Alpha 6 operating systems. FreeBSD rather ends up taking a wallop to Ubuntu Linux, but there are a few areas where FreeBSD 8 ran well. They also posted benchmarks comparing this near-final FreeBSD 8.0 build to that of FreeBSD 7.2 to show performance improvements there but with a few regressions."

Read more of this story at Slashdot.

## **4-Winged Proto-Bird Unearthed In China; Predates Archaeopteryx**

Wired reports on a find described September 24 in a note at Nature and the day after at the annual meeting of the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology: a dinosaur fossil bearing true feathers on four limbs. The fossil was discovered in north-eastern China, in strata believed to have been deposited between 151 million and 161 million years ago. If that estimate is correct, the newly discovered *Anchiornis huxleyi* is at least one million years older than the believed age of the more famous winged dinosaur *Archaeopteryx*.

Read more of this story at Slashdot.

## **For New Zealanders, No More Phones As Sat-Nav Devices**

rixth writes "From the 1st of November, it will be illegal to use cell phones while driving in New Zealand. Today, the Government clarified that you can't use your mobile phone as a navigational device, even if it is mounted on the dash board."

Read more of this story at Slashdot.

## **Opera lobby dubs IE ballot screen 'threatening and confusing'**

Microsoft's 'cunning' compromise

The chief European critic of Microsoft's Windows-IE bundling says the company's proposed web browser ballot screen compromise is a sham, accusing Redmond of packing the screen with "threatening and confusing" questions.â

Web threats: Why conventional protection doesn't work

## **Google shuts down bank snafu Gmail account**

Court order snuffs innocent bystander

Google has resolved a lawsuit from a US bank that accidentally sent 1,300 confidential tax IDs to an innocent Gmail account, but not before the

web giant complied with a court order to shut-down the account and disclose certain account info.â

Web threats: Why conventional protection doesn't work

### **Is Apple behind Intel's speedy optical link?**

Jobs-Otellini interconnect

The high-speed Light Peak optical interconnect that Intel unveiled at last week's developer confab was developed as a result of a CEO-to-CEO interconnect between Apple's Steve Jobs and Intel's Paul Otellini.â

Web threats: Why conventional protection doesn't work

### **Sunbelt buckles up for anti-bloatware drive**

Slow, fat rivals taken to task

The anti-virus bloatware problem is getting worse despite what some vendors may claim, according to figures from Sunbelt Software.â

Web threats: Why conventional protection doesn't work

### **German cops impound motorised beer crate**

A German biker who rather brilliantly converted a beer crate into a diminutive quad bike has been relieved of his wheels, following a police pursuit, Ananova reports.â

Web threats: Why conventional protection doesn't work

### **Cameron escapes Twitter twat rap**

We can let you do that, Dave

Ofcom has ruled that David Cameron did not break broadcasting rules when he told breakfast radio listeners that politicians who use Twitter risk making a "twat" of themselves.â

Web threats: Why conventional protection doesn't work

### **3 flings bribey fivers for new subscribers**

Folding money for friends and family bringers-inners

3 has started paying customers who sign up friends and family a whole pukka fiver for every subscriber recruited.â

Web threats: Why conventional protection doesn't work

### **iPhone voted UK's 'coolest brand'**

Drives Aston Martin from top spot

The iPhone has been elected as Britain's "coolest brand", knocking Aston Martin off the top of the CoolBrands list of desirables that it has dominated for three years.â

Case Study: WhatsUp keeps Legoland turnstyles ringing

### **US Navy boffins put an end to drought**

Somewhat exacerbate energy crisis, however

Backroom lab boys in the US Navy say they have developed hugely more efficient desalination machinery, ideal for making seawater drinkable. The new tech, as well as saving space and energy aboard US warships, could also bring relief to water-poor areas around the world.â

Offloading malware protection to the cloud

### **Eurocrat demands MP3 player volume limit mandate**

Commissioner wants to extend French 'not too loud' law

MP3 players sold in Europe could one day come with pre-set audio volume limits if plans proposed by a European Commissioner become official.â