Blown to Bits Chapter 1 Questions

This chapter makes the point that today everything is *digital* -- that is, everything is represented by *binary digits* or *bits*. And it provides some provocative examples of the societal implications of this digital explosion.

# **Reading Questions:**

Keep these questions in mind as you read [chapter 1](http://www.google.com/url?q=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.bitsbook.com%2Fwp-content%2Fuploads%2F2008%2F12%2FB2B_3.pdf&sa=D&sntz=1&usg=AFQjCNFTtpTKxvdB8j0hqP0ObkX57teQuQ). For each question, write a short answer in your portfolio. Don't worry if you think you don't know the right answer. Just give it your best shot. Create a page called *Blown to Bits Chapter 1* under the *Homework* category on your ***Portfolio*** and post your answers to these questions on that page. You can revise your answers after we discuss this reading in class.

1. What is a *bit* and what does it mean to say that "it's all just bits"? (Koan 1) Give examples of the things today that are stored in bits?
2. Describe, in your own words, Moore's Law.
3. Someone offers you a summer job and offers you two pay rates: (1) $10 per hour for 40 hours per week for 30 days or (2) One cent on day 1, two cents and day two, four cents on day three and on (doubling each day) for 30 days. If you were trying to make as much money as possible in 30 days, which pay rate would you choose? What does this illustrate?
4. Give an example of how the digital explosion is "neither good nor bad" but has both positive and negative implications.