

January

Thursday 29 January

- 11:14am **@floehopper** - "That sucking sound is java killing your soul" <http://tinyurl.com/bvmkjt>
- 10:32pm Heh - building meself a TaylorType™ network printer like the man **@tomtaylor**. Oh yes.
- 11:11pm Rummaging through carrier bags, looking for scraps of thermal paper. Till rolls not arrived yet...

Friday 30 January

- 02:36pm Fowler on Scrum: <http://martinfowler.com/bliki/FlaccidScrum.html> (he's being kinder than I would to Scrum here).
- 02:42pm **@robertbrook** - fewer Scrum-masters and more focus on quality engineering. Scrum has too short a horizon without the restraining XP practices
- 06:22pm Kind of touching: <http://tinyurl.com/bt3u7k>

Saturday 31 January

- 02:46pm Comfortable in bookshops and libraries. Today, Foyles.
- 03:04pm Nanotechnology for dummies. Hmm.

February

Sunday 01 February

- 12:37am Bah, soldered wrong pin because I can't count up to three. One ... two ... four.
- 01:21pm And so we enter day 3 of no f***ing Virgin broadband in SE10. If not for 3G modem would be furious. Should be.
- 11:14pm Not sure how we're going to get little Leonard to the hospital tomorrow. Might need huskies.
- 11:51pm Drinking wine, eating Hobnobs, coding PHP.
- 11:54pm Love the way that piling up snow extrudes things upwards - like a real-life rendering error.

Monday 02 February

- 12:03am Dear Sainsbury's, I want to reuse the dried Basil jar, but you stuck the label on with evil glue. Schwartz don't do that. Kthxbai.
- 03:01pm Still no virgin' broadband - 4 days and counting. Unspecified 'fault in the area' according to helpline - although not listed on their site.
- 03:43pm Celebs on twitter dull; celebs selling shit on ebay - much better. First, Paul Daniels: <http://pdet.blogspot.com/>
- 06:19pm Baffled that none of these stories about IBM's most faithful synthesized human voice have sound clips. Like the internet doesn't exist...
- 08:24pm Hmm. Water running down the inside wall of the house is bad, right?

Tuesday 03 February

- 04:54pm Broadband back after 5 day outage. Thanks Virgin Mediocre. Now, where was I. Oh yes, world domination phase I.
- 10:57pm The boy doing his best Michael Caine impression <http://tinyurl.com/czqo6e> "Everybody is sitting in the back of the motor."

Thursday 05 February

- 02:39pm The problem with my otherwise ace microprinter (<http://microprinter.pbwiki.com/>) is that it's entirely silent. Need something noisier.
- 05:24pm Off for a beer in the Square Pig, Holborn. Consider yourselves invited.
- 05:51pm Things beyond the wit of Man #34: pub tables that don't wobble.

Friday 06 February

- 01:10am BBC travel - more notices saying 'you may not copy (blah blah)' than useful travel news. F*** you. Does no-one at the Beeb have any balls?

Saturday 07 February

- 01:09am Tony Blair thinks that as a secularist I'm in an 'unholy alliance' with terrorists. <http://ekklesia.co.uk/node/8558>
- 02:08pm Cooking with booze: <http://cookingwithbooze.org/toc/> (must try some of these recipes).

Monday 09 February

- 12:51pm Hurtling away from Wales and towards London.

Tuesday 10 February

- 01:18am @infovore - <http://tinyurl.com/apfvdm> a 1990 wonder-book.
- 01:58am "So don't fear if you hear, a foreign sound to your ear. It's alright Ma, I'm only sighing".
- 09:59am Oh boy. A BBC news scare quote, wonky grammar, vested interest combo - <http://tinyurl.com/anamf4> (via @jodrell)
- 10:25am Goddamned ass-backward as fuck: <http://tinyurl.com/acm52y> The onion is still awesomely funny.

- 12:30pm If anyone's thinking of starting an SEO consultancy, they should call it 'We make up shit for money Ltd'.
- 12:42pm **@jodrell** - I take it your Mom is now an Onion fan.

Wednesday 11 February

- 12:22pm Looking at Shari'a Child Trust Fund accounts - more ethical than other so-called ethical schemes. Aside from the religious nonsense.

Thursday 12 February

- 02:33pm **@threedaymonk** - I've thought it looks like one of those paintings made by kids blowing paint with straws.
- 03:10pm **@infovore** - yup. No-one can mention it without sounding ever-so-slightly Elmer Fudd. Woads of Wuck.

Friday 13 February

- 06:33pm The luke-warm ebook market is troubled by linguistics, unlike the iPod. I say I love music, not cds. But say I love books, not reading.
- 06:37pm Don't really understand economics - if HBOS has lost £10bn in defaulting loans, doesn't that represent a £10bn boost to the wider economy?
- 09:00pm Well done HMRC. Son's first brush with the database state, and they copy his name wrongly from the birth certificate...
- 11:50pm **@mrpatto** - only if it's pronounced 'Yo, Pig!'.

Saturday 14 February

- 05:43pm Dear raileasy, I enjoyed using your website to book tickets. But then you sent me spam. Impolite, and unwelcome. Lost customer.
- 09:58pm Recruiters. Just cut out all the secrecy & just say who you're working for. Oh, and everyone else says 'job', not 'opportunity'.

10:03pm My son looks like he's auditioning to be Brain from Pinky and The Brain. <http://www.flickr.com/photos/bengriffiths/3274415872/>

Sunday 15 February

03:35pm Am betting **@floehopper** cheated and looked at the instructions.

Monday 16 February

03:15pm We need more Mary Robinson and less Jacqui Smith: <http://tinyurl.com/dy32j6>

Tuesday 17 February

02:30pm Grumpy little boy after second set of vaccinations.

08:03pm Ballard's High Rise has one of the best opening lines. "Later, as he sat on his balcony eating the dog, ..."

Wednesday 18 February

04:49pm Appear to have reached pub somewhat early. Oh well, never mind.

10:24pm Hmm. Doors fell off bus at last stop, not sure driver has noticed.

10:27pm Bus cancelled because doors fell off. Somewhat predictable.

10:32pm Burly passenger offering to go back and get doors. Think I'll walk.

Thursday 19 February

02:57pm **@threedaymonk** - are you sure? Me like pie. <http://www.weebl.jolt.co.uk/pie.htm>

04:01pm Watching the TDD debate unfold on LRUG mailing list. Sigh. Might blog about how depressing it all is later.

- 06:38pm Wish someone would make a USB socket that you could plug the lead in any damn way up and it would still work. kthxbai.
- 10:07pm Um. By 'bandwidth', I'm guessing you mean 'time'. No?

Friday 20 February

- 05:00pm Uhoh - wife and brother on twitter. **@elderberry** and **@grizzler** welcome.
- 06:16pm Woah - record store where I spent way too much of my pocket money as a teen on twitter! **@spillersrecords**
- 06:32pm I like the category headings on the Guardian's science section: Dinosaurs, Mars, Darwin, Genetics, Brain, Stem Cells, Blog, Technology.
- 07:23pm Blog post on TDD done. Not entirely happy with it. But it's out there now.
- 11:12pm Added more swearing to my latest blog post in an attempt to get banned from the internet like **@threedaymonk**

Saturday 21 February

- 03:36pm Chap in Starbucks has 'Yo!' shaved into the back of his head. I wonder if he knows. I wonder if I have anything shaved into mine...
- 03:57pm Still somewhat mystified by Wordpress, but writing my own blogging thing feels just a bit 1998.
- 06:42pm **@chrisroos** - was it yours?
- 07:07pm **@chrisroos** - one of those awful sobriety injuries where if you'd just drunk enough to be unconscious, you'd have been ok? Chin up, old boy.

Sunday 22 February

- 12:07am Going through old code. When the hell did I write an object database? How on earth does it still work?
- 09:43pm Dispatch box or Despatch box? Despatch is british variant, no?
- 10:08pm Surprised to find Chris Mullin's diaries excerpted in the Mail on Sunday of all places.

10:22pm Looks like 'dispatch box' been gaining since the 50s. <http://tinyurl.com/bzjo2z>

Monday 23 February

- 12:23am **@threedaymonk** - agreed, I found myself reading two things on the Mail's website today. Something's up.
- 12:39am Starting to think that rashly buying a packet of Ginger Nuts was a mistake.
- 12:17pm Have read the Guardian's 'Summer of Rage' article three times now - still not quite understanding the point. <http://tinyurl.com/cjw7k2>
- 02:30pm **@threedaymonk** There should be a diploma in dependency management which only people with a diploma in dependency management can get.
- 02:55pm Cheese and marmite toastie hotter than the surface of the sun. Roof of mouth burnt.
- 03:52pm Child at next table sulking: 'but Daddy says shit all the time'. We have this to look forward to.
- 04:14pm **@oneplusi** - if it turns out you're a serial killer. We'll all kick ourselves for not being suspicious of your constant cleaning activity.
- 05:19pm So, what libraries are useful for scraping stuff out of PDF files? **@delineator**, any recommendations?
- 07:41pm It's happening. Mutant Superheroes, Homo Superior, X-Men, what have you: <http://tinyurl.com/dctert>
- 09:51pm Not really in-depth psephology from Labour candidate in Lewisham: <http://tinyurl.com/cpnywv>
- 11:12pm There's a tiny house... by a tiny stream...

Tuesday 24 February

- 12:15am **@oneplusi** - preparing lines for when they catch you: "He seemed like such a normal guy. Kept himself to himself. You just never know."
- 01:17am Pretty sure this is a record of my Great Uncle's death in 1941: <http://tinyurl.com/cb3x8q>
- 01:42am 100% sure now: <http://tinyurl.com/dx2jce>

- 02:13am Thinking of doing something around the Commonwealth War Graves Commission for <http://rewiredstate.org/> Is that too morbid?
- 03:26pm Gmail failed at the only time in the last 2 years that I needed it to work. Hard not to take it personally.
- 03:30pm Super Awesome Broadband - <http://superawesomebroadband.com/faq.html>
- 04:03pm Bah. Cafe suddenly full of whining schoolkids, with satchels.
- 04:06pm Anyone else think the Gmail failure was a dry run for when they shut down the 'net and the GTanks roll in?
- 04:15pm For fucks' sake, BBC, tell the ignorant-ass complainers to f*** off: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/magazine/7906507.stm>
- 04:17pm Confused that I felt the need to star-bleep one of the f***s in the last tweet.
- 06:00pm **@tom_watson** - open source is about being both a consumer/producer, a publisher/author. Value for money test overplays consumer-side.
- 07:32pm Trying to work out if Safari 4 tabs are something I hate because they're different and I'll get used to and find them better. Or not.

Wednesday 25 February

- 12:35am **@coupde** - have put something up on wiki, will think about it more and develop. <http://tinyurl.com/bond9c>
- 04:27pm Trying to work out why I have no probs with Scotland on Rails, but issues with Rails Underground. Something to do with community engagement.
- 04:55pm Songs in my head no.34: and the green grass grew all around, all around. And the green grass grew all around.
- 05:13pm Looking forward to Irug nights. See peeps, you can join the rails community for free! (early bird price -you might have to get first round.)

Thursday 26 February

- 12:14am **@railsunder** - how about removing the copy that says 'become part of the community' from your site? That would be a start.

- 12:33am Am finding the coverage of Cameron's son's death mawkish and inappropriate. You'd swear he was a royal. Oh wait, he is of that stock.
- 01:04am Um, are people really taking advice on intellectual pursuits from Cheryl Cole and Nicole Kidman? <http://tinyurl.com/c9925n> Why?
- 07:48pm defaults write com.apple.Safari DebugSafari4TabBarIsOnTop -bool FALSE

Friday 27 February

- 12:31am UK Urban Exploration Forums: <http://www.28dayslater.co.uk/forums/index.php>
- 12:41am Am very glad that Mark Easton is still plugging away at this story: <http://tinyurl.com/dd74xn> This should see Smith's career ended.
- 01:42am Blah blah blah. Gmail went down. World ended. Blah blah blah. Need email. Am so much more important than you. Blah blah.
- 02:41pm The Mail editor must have pissed himself with joy when this story appeared: <http://tinyurl.com/c3lpvw> Radioactive paedophiles cause cancer.
- 05:59pm Son is putting on weight - now he looks exactly like the Little Chef. Maybe it's the white babygro.
- 11:04pm **@tom_watson** - excellent open sourcing news (and consultationXML may be just what I need to get Greenwich Council's minutes online).

Saturday 28 February

- 03:09pm Good to see the LibDems being bold: <http://tinyurl.com/da287k> But, chaps, the constant mentioning of 1984 comes across weak.
- 04:16pm **@twrc** - gosh. Holy flaming iPhone. Not good. Not good at all.
- 04:34pm About to buy job-lot of biscuits. You know, for dunking. Hmm. Too much choice.
- 04:55pm Foul language and ribaldry.
- 06:02pm Nearly died of old age in Asda checkout queue. Note: avoid supermarkets on weekend.

06:51pm You really can't keep a database that is supposed to have such wide access from the public sector secure: <http://tinyurl.com/dxbymd>

09:23pm OK. All together now: there once was a man called Michael Finnegan. He grew whiskers on his chinnegan...

March

Sunday 01 March

- 12:46am Reading that the banks have received more public money than their total tax bills for the last 10 years. This is just wrong.
- 05:56am Look at this. Scum. From age 7? Being a brand whore (they call it an ambassador)? Why is this not illegal? <http://www.dubitinsider.com/>
- 10:01am **@robertbrook** - heard your podcast. Your laugh scared me. Greatly.
- 12:26pm Charing cross. All trains going to Cannon Street. Ho hum.
- 12:30pm Now have book with music and words for a squillion nursery rhymes. Hope the boy likes my ukulele plinking.
- 12:35pm **@coupde** - you could... But I fear learning more about those modern-day Fagins would be depressing.
- 12:37pm If my iPhone had copy and paste I'd retweet **@twrc**'s last message. His iPhone burst into flames. Go see **@twrc**
- 12:49pm Bah - now to Lewisham. Weekend trains, eh?
- 02:03pm I think we should allow that w*nker Goodwin to keep his pension, but lets pay it to him in horse manure or wasps or lentils.
- 11:04pm Round up the children and, oh I don't know, send them to the workhouse or something: <http://tinyurl.com/ar29c6>

Monday 02 March

- 09:09am **@delineator** - that's companies' house. Do they still switch their website off outside office hours?
- 09:10am **@delineator** - "The WebCheck service is available from Monday to Sunday 7.00am to 12 Midnight UK Time " Ah yes.
- 01:45pm 3G speed collapsed when frightening bald man left. Coincidence?
- 02:21pm **@floehopper** - 3rd paragraph s/legitimate/human/

- 02:35pm It's cosmic irony that this spiritualist chap was convicted of murder after sending SMSs from beyond the grave. <http://tinyurl.com/c9wkh8>
- 03:20pm The Evening Standard will no longer be misanthropic, fear-mongering, right-wing garbage. Right. <http://tinyurl.com/ddkh6t>
- 03:29pm For those who'll miss the old, mad Evening Standard - here's an excellent headline generator. <http://thesurrealist.co.uk/standard.php>
- 04:22pm Can't find refresh button in Safari 4. Oh right, it's not a button. WTF?
- 05:24pm This is more than awesome - a lego turing machine. <http://tinyurl.com/buw6to> (via **@floehopper**).
- 11:05pm **@seanohalpin** I was quite fond of 'Tory Romance: Prepare to Flee'
- 11:12pm ASDA 5-bean salad has very precise timing: 'Use by 02 MAR 06:56'. Risking it anyway.
- 11:19pm Wondering if this beaver is still at large, and whether I should warn Mother-in-law it's heading her way. <http://tinyurl.com/a8geq6>
- 11:26pm The beaver story should have had more coverage, what with the 'jurassic park style fence'. <http://tinyurl.com/clkph3> Lovely.
- 11:44pm What if 300 years of history... didn't really happen? <http://tinyurl.com/agoqt>

Tuesday 03 March

- 12:17am Sunken cheese: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/americas/4729971.stm> I think **@threedaymonk** would appreciate these efforts.
- 12:24am How to cremate fat folk: <http://tinyurl.com/2557a>
- 03:06pm There seems to be no consensus on whether m4v files should be served as video/mp4 or video/x-m4v. Ho hum. Apple being iTunes cheeky again.
- 03:11pm Labour, labour, labour - why now even I am linking to Conservative blogs: <http://tinyurl.com/c7p2kq> Seek help for your database fetishes.
- 06:56pm **@digitalronin** - indeed, and look, another MP not going to jail for obvious malfeasance: <http://tinyurl.com/b2vo7n>

- 07:14pm About to cook a Linda McCartney pie - still think trading standards should investigate. I don't think there's any Linda within.
- 07:16pm Unlike Anthony Worrall Thompson kitchen equipment, which I'm told is forged from his hair by Scandinavian Trolls. <http://tinyurl.com/bs8937>

Wednesday 04 March

- 12:10am Just visited iTunes store. See that you can 'pre-order' things. Why? Surely no-one does this. It's not a shop, with stock. Rip-off.
- 12:34am Tried to descale kettle - that went well. Need new kettle now.
- 09:59pm Police came to ask us about next door's break-in. One of their phone's had the 24 ring-tone. Sonofabitch!
- 10:35pm Now, what's the first rule of Street-fighting Mathematics? <http://tinyurl.com/4ggpv8>
- 10:54pm Reading about number theory - am sure **@oneplusi** would approve. But my brain twisted and unkind with effort.
- 11:11pm r^2 proof by pizza. Never occurred to me before, but obvious now: <http://www.scottaaronson.com/democritus/lec2.html> Mmmm. Pizza.

Thursday 05 March

- 01:33am **@david_a_black** - survival of the flattest?
- 02:42am I noticed in the last bust that Forrester et al. started producing CxO wish-fulfillment reports; deja vu? <http://tinyurl.com/ch55fc>
- 01:04pm **@mbites** - if I had a dollar for every start-up 'approaching a million uniques a month'... :)
- 02:04pm Eek. Mustard.
- 04:25pm Recycling bin in my home office is full of HobNob wrappers and bits of a dismantled robosapien.
- 10:23pm Waiting for job advert: "Senior Ruby on Rails programmer: must be expert at HTML, CSS, Javascript. Ruby more or less optional."

- 10:24pm **@lazyatom** - Helpful entrepreneur tip: no need to make business cards. Go to dos and people give them to you!
- 11:16pm BBC should shut down BBC3 and replace it with someone just reading the twitter public timeline like the old teleprinter pools results
- 11:37pm Awesome urban camouflage in IKEA: <http://www.urbancamouflage.de/>

Friday 06 March

- 03:09am It's rather special to still come across urls that contain /cgi/, /cms/, /cgi-bin/, /portal/, /public/.
- 12:57pm Wonder if all the lovely people going to rewired state tomorrow want to chat about projects... irc or skype or ichat?
- 02:33pm Thread about misheard lyrics on reddit reminds of trying to convince friend that Ziggy Stardust wasn't making love to his eagle.
- 10:01pm Admiring **@delineator**'s talent for promotion - methinks he should become a lobbyist :)
- 10:34pm **@delineator** - just pulling your leg.
- 10:37pm Told myself I was going to take part in script frenzy if I hadn't found a proper job: <http://www.scriptfrenzy.org/eng/whatisscriptfrenzy>

Saturday 07 March

- 07:48am Oh boy. This is too early. Looking for clothes on which the boy hasn't puked and in which to head to **@rewiredstate**. Urrgh.
- 07:55am Ok. **@rewiredstate** here we come (though the dull brain perplexes and retards).
- 02:27pm Trying to map historical punishments and crimes to modern ones. *#rewiredstate*

Sunday 08 March

- 01:14am Am pretty sure that if she had a favourite mode of transport, the queen mum - gorresersowl - would pick the night bus. The n89 specifically.
- 02:08am Had such a good time at **@rewiredstate** - **@coupde**, can we do it all over again tomorrow?
- 03:09am **@delineator** -how tall is your Dad?
- 03:11am Kicking myself at missed interrobang opportunity in last twee. Drunk, me
- 01:48pm Watched video of myself presenting **@rewiredstate**. Yep, still higher-pitched, shorter, fatter and more welsh than I sound inside my head.
- 02:01pm **@digitalronin** - <http://rewiredstate.blip.tv/#1863646>
- 02:26pm Was talking about this process with **@tomtaylor** last night: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ozalid>
- 03:17pm Oh dear, there goes sunday - <http://www.bbc.co.uk/radio4/scifiseason/> - thanks BBC. Why not close BBC3 and make more of these?
- 03:22pm Who will pay for journalism. No really, who will pay for journalism. What? No, watt is a unit of power. <http://tinyurl.com/cj58ac>
- 05:12pm Am told that signs that say 'no smoking *on* these premises' are illegal. '*In* these premises' is written into law.
- 06:29pm Accessibility is a stupid argument I hear against mash-ups. You cannot, *cannot*, make data less accessible by displaying it in another way.
- 06:56pm All watched over by machines of loving grace: <http://www.redhousebooks.com/galleries/freePoems/allWatchedOver.htm> (right now, please!)
- 11:19pm **@twrc** - <http://tinyurl.com/av8l66> from **@threedaymonk**

Monday 09 March

- 03:18am <http://volokh.com/posts/1235918170.shtml> Interesting post about Songsmith, creativity, lawyers and copyright.
- 12:58pm Wondering whether we should forcibly subscribe politicians to useful mailing list using ViaPost. <http://www.viapost.com/>

- 05:02pm **@delineator**. Undefined, proscribed activities your speciality. Have written to my Mp to protest.
- 05:39pm **@tom_watson** as **@rewiredstate** participant was uncomfortable with your 'british talent' comment.

Tuesday 10 March

- 01:04am **@threedaymonk** - no mystery. MI5 shift change. My phone clicks at the same time.
- 01:07am Hmm. Making squeak look better - <http://www.pharo-project.org/home> Doesn't the website design exude design flair and elegance?
- 01:52am Feel the need to post this: <http://tinyurl.com/26v5cy> Do memes rust?
- 12:48pm Heading home after attending Guardian openplatform launch. Looking forward to playing with it.
- 02:49pm This is terrifying - <http://tinyurl.com/b6r7o7> (thanks **@floehopper**)
- 03:16pm **@threedaymonk** - Mr Cadbury's Parrot of course. <http://tinyurl.com/djzddw>

Wednesday 11 March

- 01:02am Well, so much for an afternoon nap - just woke up.
- 03:06am **@bobbiejohnson** - does Manchester begin with a 'G' ?
- 12:56pm Blog post explaining why I didn't like **@tom_watson** 's tweet about 'British talent' **#rewiredstate** <http://tinyurl.com/cnr596>
- 01:03pm **@jamesandrews** - Nice colour scheme. Can still see the site when I close my eyes. Can you do one for opticians next? :)
- 08:03pm The child is kicking crazily and gurgling 'aboooug' 'aboooug'. I think that means 'good evening parents, I'm awake' or something.

Thursday 12 March

- 12:08pm "all TfL syndicated feeds must use the official colour schemes as supplied within the feed." Um. What?

- 12:20pm Tfl feeds - less useful than screenscraping tfl.gov.uk. Move in right direction, largely a FAIL though.
- 01:05pm Ho hum. Writing to information commissioner to complain about recruitment consultant who refuses to remove me from their database.
- 01:26pm "insufficient skilled resource was applied to the project" <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/7937269.stm> £690 million buys a lot of f***wits.
- 01:42pm **@delineator** - good idea. I've ended at a few conferences with a badge that said 'Ben Griffiths/None'
- 05:26pm *#cloudcamp* seems a bit Empire Strikes Back to me. All seems friendly enough, but deals with the evil Empires will come to light.
- 08:25pm The child's campaign to vomit, dribble or pee on everything we own is continuing apace.
- 09:27pm Uhoh - believe the wife, **@elderberry**, is sending me passive aggressive messages on twitter...
- 10:05pm It's been a few years, has anyone found this yet? <http://tinyurl.com/ag94cv>
- 10:20pm Ooh... look... <http://www.hackday.org/> 9-10 May

Friday 13 March

- 01:39am Not sure what to think about Olympic suppliers being chosen at random: <http://tinyurl.com/d4q52w> (I'm not sure it's so unfair...)
- 01:50am ID card will help me 'open first bank account, rent first flat, travel to Europe for the first time.' How did I get by without one? *#no2id*
- 02:36am Nothing wrong with my blog that couldn't be fixed by upgrading to Wordpress 2.7 and a liberal sprinkling of Comic Sans.
- 02:54am **@oneplusi** - <http://www.techbelly.com>
- 10:33am **@fidothe** - I use vodafone soap-bar-shaped 3G thingy and it works fine.
- 12:19pm Ah - blog upgrade and redesign done. Comic Sans growing on me. <http://www.techbelly.com>
- 12:40pm **@jodrell** - was upgrading from 2.2.1. So more of a complete reinstall than an upgrade.

- 02:06pm Remembering 'can we disable the back button to stop users leaving site' conversation from a few years ago. Just an everyday marketing idea.
- 02:15pm 40 series of ISIHAC - <http://www.archive.org/details/ImSorryIHaventAClue> archived.
- 05:50pm **@cherkoff** Wondering why we don't just set up our own House of Lords? How hard can it be?
- 06:11pm Borrowing **@threedaymonk**'s anti-IE6 banner. <http://tinyurl.com/cqltum>
- 07:31pm Sigh. Again the amazing bounty of free flawless digital copying - think about it, it's awesome - being talked down by the government.
- 07:46pm The latest paper says the gov should 'explain the consequences of unlawful use of copyright material'. Um, music? <http://tinyurl.com/bw2dtr>
- 09:44pm Another blog post. Yes indeed. This time, what if the proposed digital rights agency sided against copyright? <http://tinyurl.com/adwydd>

Saturday 14 March

- 12:18am Sourceforge announces support for git - shame no-one cares.
- 04:45pm Always surprised to find that people 'phoned me - don't they know by now I hardly ever answer? (sorry **@delineator**, something important?)
- 04:47pm In fact, if I do answer it'll probably have been by accident and I'll be flustered. You have been warned...
- 04:54pm Letter from Richard Branson promising 'almost infinite speed' Internet. Sounds good but I think his sums are off.
- 05:02pm **@oneplusi** - isn't c as far from infinty as every other number. Never really understood that...
- 06:56pm Looking for big space poster for child's room - you know, with rockets and planets and spacemen. Maybe robots too.
- 07:02pm Oh. This looks like it might be just the ticket - <http://tinyurl.com/ao7z3c>
- 07:47pm Seems to me that latest series of Battlestar Galactica is enjoying playing at Mormonism lite - ie. no bigamy, osmonds but lots of odd vests.

- 07:56pm Oh for Pete's sake Apple, please stop this. <http://tinyurl.com/aoparz>
- 08:25pm rt **@threedaymonk** "I see no evidence of DRM. I still think special headphones are a daft idea tho." Hope I'm wrong then.
- 08:31pm Want to get a high chair that will last for 100 years. Not a searchable attribute on any of the shopping sites.
- 11:04pm **@lazyatom** - ooh. The first twitter serial killer. Go on, I dare you.
- 11:59pm **@jodrell** - <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/england/7943066.stm>

Sunday 15 March

- 01:09am I very, very rarely leave reviews or feedback online but I still read reviews. They can't be from people like me, right?
- 01:38am Oh dear god. I appear to be writing a blogging engine. Again.
- 01:50am I keep forgetting that delicious searches tend to get me to useful stuff more quickly than Google.
- 02:24am Job advert: "We are passionate about open source. [...] Skills required: .NET, Visual Studio, Oracle, Business Objects (desirable)"
- 12:04pm Nice little program design presentation - short and sweet. <http://tinyurl.com/btjbnd>
- 12:06pm Solving homeopathy: choose a poison, you make some of your magic water as an antidote, I'll take proper drugs. Let's see who dies.
- 12:08pm **@swombat** - wrote about SEO a while back - <http://tinyurl.com/66ghrg> It's a fraud..
- 01:59pm **@lazyatom**'s twittering failing the Turing test.
- 05:57pm It's kind of annoying that Yahoo pipes lacks just a couple of useful operations.
- 07:28pm How to tell people they sound racist. This is good. Oh yes. <http://tinyurl.com/6pcc4f>
- 07:46pm Possibly the best chunk of Agile wisdom I've seen: <http://twitter.com/jrcalzada/status/1292265977> (circuitously via **@infovore**)

- 09:52pm **@floehopper** - agreed, seems a bit silly when there are people out there still not using source control.
- 10:41pm Misread **@hlame**'s tweet as 'Heston Blumenthal is fucking a wizard'. Strangely my first thought was 'What now? live? on tv?'.

Monday 16 March

- 01:18am There's a room in hell full off people continually trying to open a CSV in open office and hoping it won't crash again. For eternity.
- 01:28am Whenever you think "why am I writing a progrAM
- 01:45am Tonight I have mostly been using Yahoo Pipes and Open Office - will be glad if I go to my grave never having to use either again.
- 01:50am When you're using rubbish tools, you have a lot of time for mindless twittering as you wait for them to do stuff.
- 03:09pm A morning of good and odd coincidences. This bodes well. May buy lottery ticket since I'm so goddamn lucky today.
- 04:17pm **@threedaymonk** - sshh. You know how easy it is to jinx things. Man only ha' so much luck, yer know.
- 04:45pm The child started giggling today. Smiling as I think about that. Wonder what it feels like to laugh for the first time.
- 06:10pm Early to sceptics - table nabbed. Awaiting rationalist hordes.
- 11:42pm On my way home, unnecessarily taking the bus. Rotherhide already.

Tuesday 17 March

- 12:08am Anyone want to go see Watchmen this week?
- 12:57am Wasn't aware of the Express's shameful exploitation of the killings in Dunblane - what utter, utter filth. Bloggerheads does good though.
- 12:57am **@threedaymonk** - it's like back to the future. Your Son has gone back in time and prevented your parents from meeting.
- 01:01am **@threedaymonk** - oh no, not the holodeck: <http://tinyurl.com/34u2a8>

- 01:15am This is still high wisdom: "We are at now now?" <http://tinyurl.com/3yr9qt> All meetings are like this (fact).
- 01:38am Reading the Church Commissioners Investment FAQ. Why there isn't a 'what about this sell all you have and give it to the poor' question?
- 01:41am **@chalucy** - my mistake, must have missed the 'don't sell all you have, invest it in the stock market' bit of the bible.
- 01:50am Don't think I can sign most recent PAF petition - I agree 100% with releasing it, but the logic behind this petition is unsound.
- 01:57am No.. the parable of the talents is not about investing in the stock market. It starts - 'the kingdom of heaven is like...'
- 07:04am Off to London to meet the queen. Um. Well to meet **@tom_watson** anyway. Final check for baby sick on clothes and off we go.
- 07:35am Item one on agenda - scheduling more secret meetings that **@lazyatom** won't be invited to.
- 11:50am **@hlame** - so... the bible is true... this my favourite wacky-but-could-be theory: <http://tinyurl.com/agoqt>
- 02:00pm Today the child is alternately fascinated by and wary of his feet.
- 02:26pm I can haz documents about Barclays tax avoidance schemes? Oh yes, are on wikileaks.
- 04:36pm **@monicaferrero** - the mask is for our protection, not his.

Wednesday 18 March

- 01:00pm Wonder what would happen to Mail editorial line if the majority of its income came from foreigners: <http://tinyurl.com/d28f4g> via **@cherkoff**
- 01:06pm The movie industry is f***ed when executives say: 'these fanflicks say they're cheap but they still have 5-figure budgets'. 100x cheaper.
- 05:05pm People who *must* *have* microsoft office are the ones who print things out and correct them by hand or distribute webpages on paper. Weird?
- 05:19pm Guessing at the direction the iPhone is heading - it's becoming a tricorder; the perfect tool for interplanetary exploration.

- 05:21pm **@oneplusi** - I like my eee901 - running fedora - but am told that the Dell mini 9 is the new choice.
- 05:49pm **@oneplusi** - woah - didn't know that. Rubbish.

Thursday 19 March

- 12:14pm Seems google drove past our house taking pictures a few weeks ago...
- 03:46pm In foyles - nice to see that astrology is shelved next to economics.
- 06:10pm Wondering why we let Witto choose the pubs - The Enterprise, full of drunken posh teens.

Friday 20 March

- 12:31am Hmm - the amount of blood in the kitchen probably should serve as a lesson to me not to grate cheese when drunk.
- 12:27pm **@delineator** - one prob with g. analytics is that it doesn't record screen-scraping, which is a valid use of a site. kthxbai.
- 01:54pm Writing spider to 'borrow' some data from teh interweb. If anyone asks, you didn't see me.
- 03:24pm Am guessing the website I'm scraping was written in asp.NET to fulfill the requirement 'must be stoopid, hard to spider and need javascript'
- 06:44pm **@delineator** - audited website figures for all government sites at £1700 a pop. That sounds very sensible and a bargain, no?

Saturday 21 March

- 12:39am What kind of abomination is ASP.net and its VIEWSTATE gibberish? Its passive aggression sums up how M\$ views the internet.
- 12:26pm Stop motion and papercraft Tron light-cycle scene: <http://tinyurl.com/2qp5x5>

04:06pm "This error page might contain sensitive information because ASP.NET is configured to show verbose error messages" Oh well, never mind.

04:36pm Lots of swearing at ASP.NET - which is still some kind of vicious joke - only to find the problem in Net::HTTP. Ho hum. Victory at last.

05:20pm In yur interweb, borrowing yur data. kthxbai.

06:05pm Oops. Appear to have crashed website I was scraping. Hope there's not a data centre on fire somewhere.

06:34pm The child cares about nothing today except trying to chew his own hands off.

06:37pm Hmm - actually he quite likes trying to eat the Bubblebath foam as well.

07:46pm Now have a big list of 18,000 webpages I need to snaffle. Bonzer.

07:54pm **@oneplusi @jodrell** - nothing too exciting; working around this idea: <http://tinyurl.com/bond9c> oneplusipphoto

07:58pm **@robertbrook** - eek. that's some typo. robertbrook

08:11pm Wondering if I'm cool enough to use CouchDB. Oh wait, I've got some sunglasses somewhere.

09:32pm Occasionally shouty poorly formed HTML :
<TABLE><TR><TD></table>

09:36pm Javascript monkeys rule: alert("Element "+elemId+" not found. Are you using an incompatible browser?");

10:18pm F***ing hilarious. <http://tinyurl.com/crwgw3> I suggest Gordon Brown develops a special relationship with the Pirate Bay.

10:29pm Comments on this BBC blog post degenerate into wonderful character-set anarchy: <http://tinyurl.com/d2relt>

Sunday 22 March

12:13am Scraping pages and chucking data into CouchDB. While that's going on, I should learn how to get them out again...

01:16am Pleasantly surprised that after the drunken cheese grater incident neither of my two lacerated fingers have gone black, gangrenous or other.

- 01:56am Hmm. Have come to the conclusion that I really do want a relational database for this data. Fare thee well, CouchDB. Hello, MySQL.
- 02:07am Have representative sample of data now - tomorrow app building.
- 03:00pm Bah - trying to guess how to construct URLs to get stuff out of CouchDB. So much for it being ReSTful.
- 04:47pm @maccman all sorted now. Was only using couchdb because it's shiny. It should return urls, though, not document ids - not so restful IMHO.
- 07:52pm Sneaky pint with @delineator near London bridge.

Monday 23 March

- 03:54pm Slowly dragging stuff I used to know from depths of brain to working memory. Probably displacing trivia and pub-quizz ability.
- 04:04pm Running queries and regexps on the War Graves data is very affecting - SELECT age,COUNT(*) FROM casualties GROUP BY age.
- 06:38pm Um. Agile Maturity Models? WTF? <http://tinyurl.com/cwdhdf> Consultant-led twaddle is back.
- 09:40pm This 'toxic asset' nonsense: shouldn't the holders just drop the price until someone will buy them? I smell a fraud to get public funds.

Tuesday 24 March

- 12:27am Thinking of setting up an ISP for insomniacs - we'd do our 'routine maintenance' at midday. Damn you Virgin Broadband - every night?
- 12:30am Yes indeed - the irony of using a service called 'virgin broadband' that goes down every night without fail...
- 12:49am Did the 'expert science communicators' at BBC news mean to imply that vegetarianism = 11% chance of immortality? <http://tinyurl.com/crzua5>
- 01:23am Wondering if the SkillsMatter captcha for @lrug is really small, or just very far away.

01:36am I was told I was wrong in an interview last year about parse time of JSON v text in javascript. <http://tinyurl.com/cotmq9> See, not wrong.

01:57am What? Now being vegetarian gets you flagged in some state database? <http://tinyurl.com/dxfuwc> (via **@oneplusi**)

02:24am Oh my. Oh my. Oh my. Do not click if easily disturbed: <http://www.pinkcoyote.net/creativegrooming.html> (via **@tomafro**)

02:46am Aah, so that's what's going wrong with the economy: <http://tinyurl.com/cms6yy>

03:15pm Have about 13,000 1940s commonwealth placenames from War Graves Commission I want to geocode. Any suggestions of which service to use?

03:30pm Historical geocoding poorly supported - lots of Commonwealth provinces, towns, states seem to have disappeared or been renamed. *#longnow*

03:36pm Nice, I like the way the Multimap API sign-up tries to explain how email works. Methinks if you don't know, you're in the wrong place.

04:21pm Trying to geocode using Yahoo pipes - not sure why I'm doing that, it'll end in tears. Really want to believe in the pipes....

04:29pm Hmm. Yahoo pipes resolves 'Clapham' to Clayton, New Mexico. Not useful.

04:33pm **@dantagg** Did not know about dbpedia - looks interesting. Might be exactly what I need. Thanks .

04:52pm **@adrianshort** - don't often know what country the places are in, short of them being in the Commonwealth and not in the US.

05:01pm **@CouchDB** - Oh, thanks. Will take a look. Was expecting it to be ReSTful by default from the documentation.

06:09pm Enjoying this geocoding lark - issues so far - Pakistan sometimes means Bangladesh; anglicised welsh names; pre-1974 welsh counties.

06:42pm Learning stuff. Basutoland is the pre-1966 name for Lesotho. And kids died from there in our armies.

09:28pm Is `<abbr>` the only mimetic html tag?

10:01pm It's unclear why this isn't the lead story on every website today: <http://tinyurl.com/d53kgt>

Wednesday 25 March

- 12:12pm **@oneplusi** go to starbucks, sit next to someone with big old laptop, whip it out and feel like a giant. So to speak.
- 02:24pm Pretty sure this would be **@lazyatom**'s Citizen Kane:
<http://www.imdb.com/video/screenplay/vi453115929/>
- 05:30pm New camera bought - wish there'd been a way to say "Um. All those cables in the box, have already, please don't give me more." Unbundle!
- 07:23pm When archaeologists examine our era, I'm sure they'll conclude that the information revolution was mainly about To Do list apps.
- 07:24pm Making a list of To Do list apps - on paper, with a bleedin' pencil.
- 08:55pm **@hlame @lazyatom** - I have no idea what rock cakes are, but how lovely. hlame
- 10:23pm Ah. Just remembered that the child vomited in the clean laundry basket this morning. Might have to do some clothes washing before tomorrow.

Thursday 26 March

- 01:41pm **@lazyatom** - how old? Will come join you if it looks likely they might die before York. lazyatom
- 02:09pm If I could tell Google what I owned would they remove all the frakking ecommerce and chaffiliate sites from their results?
- 02:55pm Retford is interesting for its uninterestingness - <http://www.retford.org.uk/> What other towns need a campaign like 'Retford exists'?
- 03:00pm Quite excited to be on a train, Skyping **@floehopper**, who is also on a train. It's like magic.
- 03:14pm **@oneplusi** - always following in your footsteps. Or 'stalking' as the parole officer insists I call it.
- 03:25pm Be vewwy, vewwy quiet: I'm hunting wabbits.
- 04:00pm Did he just say 'going forward we need more thinking outside the box. I'm not interested in push back. Take it offline'? I believe so.

- 04:05pm Going forward, I'm thinking about 'taking ownership' of this chap's blackberry and 'pro-actively' throwing it out the window.
- 04:56pm <http://www.kk.org/cooltools/archives/003609.php> Clever + obvious = magic. WANT
- 07:34pm This is rubbish and it makes no sense typographically. Stop wasting our bloody money on posters. <http://tinyurl.com/db7z7u> - via **@oneplusi**
- 08:00pm Made the mistake of turning on the TV. Pretty sure this programme is called '10 years younger than your pet's celebrity house xtreme'.

Friday 27 March

- 12:58am In awe of **@knaveofdiamonds**' Edinburgh chip shop knowledge. Safely back with full belly.
- 03:05pm Checking my memory against confabulation with the help of github.
- 05:39pm Interesting point in **@sco** talk - EC2 lets you iterate on hardware and infrastructure. *#sor09*
- 05:50pm Have encountered strange mirror world of people using windows and the nokia ringtone.
- 06:15pm Dropping stuff off at hotel. Back soon.

Saturday 28 March

- 12:22pm Oh good lord - sitting in an object-oriented programming is about polymorphic animals... what is this, 1990?
dog.bark parrot.squawk
- 12:29pm **@hlame** - <http://tinyurl.com/ddfq9>

Sunday 29 March

- 02:38am Have largely avoided twitter spam to date - now being **@spammed** by mormons. Sigh.
- 02:55am If rewriting apps is hard, lets do it all the time. Rewrite and deploy every day. Like this idea, would love to try. *#sor09*
- 04:29pm Yawn. Not making the most of beautiful Edinburgh - short nap required. *#sor09*

- 04:33pm Plotting blog post on how agile is best viewed as a interconnected graph rather than a disjunct set of practices.
- 09:41pm GCSE ICT really is bad: "Name three cell formats that have been used in this spreadsheet." "What is meant by the term copyright?" (Jun 2008)
- 09:46pm "Describe how to indent a whole paragraph of text."
"Use diagrams to show what is meant by Portrait and Landscape. " GCSE ICT Jun 2008
- 09:50pm "Design an ICT health and safety poster." WTF???
- 09:53pm **@robertbrook** "What should the technician check?"
"The zip drive has a disk in it YES/NO" "The PDA is not attached to the computer YES/NO"
- 09:56pm "Describe one way in which RAM memory and a hard disk are similar." Um, do they both float?
- 10:23pm Ooh - <http://makeinternettv.org/> this is interesting.
- 10:24pm rt **@warriorgrrl** New blog post: shoot the police ::: <http://tinyurl.com/czv4tx>
- 11:02pm If they ever make a genetic engineering scrapheap challenge, this would be a good animal to hide in the scrapyard: <http://tinyurl.com/2ak7cv>

Monday 30 March

- 05:06am They're doing it again - quoting their own correspondents. Weird stuff, BBC. On the lead story too. <http://tinyurl.com/c3js9n>
- 11:29am Lots of specific error cases throw `NoMethodError` in ruby - wonder if this is good or bad.
- 11:54am **@delineator** - me too. Just because something is legal, allowed, accepted, normal doesn't mean it's not private.
- 12:08pm **@cherkoff** - any film with animated penguins is suspect if you ask me. I think the adult films were bought in addition to those ones.
- 12:09pm **@cherkoff** - although I wonder if Amazon says 'people who bought this also bought ...'
- 02:54pm "There are very few instances when the [Olympic] Games' Marks can be used without our consent." What a f***ing racket, better off without.

- 02:56pm Wondering if the internet has made arranging sporting events cheaper? Would like 2012 to be the last corporate wankfest of a festival.
- 04:21pm Confused as to what a 'suspected imitation weapon' might be. Also, should I now burn all my 'material relating to political ideology'?
- 04:25pm Suggesting new section on directgov - find your nearest book-burning bonfire. Could use google maps and be v. Web 2.0.
- 04:57pm <http://tinyurl.com/ceckoc> "In answer to other small things, spam is not retained." - well that's where I'd hide my comms then.
- 07:54pm rt **@ChaosSteffen** Tja, wenn github down ist, macht programmieren keinen Spaß. (Bloody hell, a german tweet I understood).
- 07:57pm Wondering if the SourceSafe alliance have blown up the Github death star... Oh wait, that's not right.
- 08:21pm Theremin, death Ballads and seance - <http://tinyurl.com/dbe2pt>
- 10:34pm iPhone stuff should be cool but this makes me think of morris dancing - hmm. now there's a killer app idea... <http://tinyurl.com/b3jv6s>
- 11:25pm <http://www.quantumjumping.com/> "jumping into parallel dimensions, gaining skills from alternate versions of yourself." Where do I sign up?
- 11:26pm "Need proof? I don't blame you - that's why I'll tell you what some of the world's finest minds are saying." <http://www.quantumjumping.com>
- 11:34pm **@mrpatto** - I feel so silly now, it's so obvious looking at it...
- 11:38pm Safari - 'Are you sure you want to close this window?' Um, don't know, damn dialog box is obscuring all the tabs. Apple - UI gods.
- 11:39pm Gonna start an 80-character twitter clone - you know, for those terminal nerds who use vi.

Tuesday 31 March

- 07:38pm Yay, child and wife back from Plymouth - already been vomitted on twice. (By the child, that is)

April

Wednesday 01 April

- 05:09pm Hmm. Dubious about tonight's lug nights venue.
- 05:13pm Thinking of starting a twitter picture service to steal folkses loginss. Oops, meanss letss folkses sshare picturess. Oh yessss.
- 06:14pm **@infovore** - you're right! Now, where's the nearest beach? Roll montage.

Thursday 02 April

- 12:28am Gosh, Newswipe is good today. Really good.
- 10:19pm About to work through a Scala tutorial - fear not friends. Ruby is still my true love, just a brief dalliance.
- 11:40pm This is why Sun sucks: <http://www.netbeans.org/servlets/NewsItemView?newsItemID=1356>

Friday 03 April

- 01:47pm In the future, everything useful will have been written. All we will do is write new test frameworks. Oh, wait...
- 01:51pm Pleased to discover that teenage drinking pals have become coders. (talking to you **@th3maw**).
- 02:02pm Agreeing with **@threedaymonk** - the IE6 rant on bottom of this page is most excellent: <http://www.newtoyork.com/>
- 05:04pm Getting reports from the wife that the child has learnt how to use his thumbs. That's what sets us apart from the dolphins, you know.
- 10:45pm Thinking that wikipedia's list of conspiracy theories probably only has the ones that *they* want you to know about.

Saturday 04 April

03:06am Been meaning to get dotfiles and scripts into source control since, well, 1998. Done now - <http://github.com/techbelly/dotfiles/tree/master>

Sunday 05 April

12:03am Digging up old ruby code - anyone want to draw ascii barcharts in the mysql client? <http://tinyurl.com/djyf6r>

05:14pm **@threedaymonk** - always been partial to ornithomancy.

06:09pm Wanted this service so many times: <https://rightsignature.com/>

06:18pm Feel like I'm in some odd web-scale sales pitch. Ruby failed at twitter because of need for type-safety and null checks? Hmm. Bollocks.

06:21pm Moore's law is a funny thing: it means that some of us learnt web-scale technique many years ago on much smaller scale systems.

06:24pm **@threedaymonk** - oh, agreed, but did you see this: <http://djberg96.livejournal.com/164095.html>

08:12pm <http://www.digitalproductions.co.uk/index.php?id=181>
Fair cultural reference or copyright theft, piracy, unspeakable evil, etc? Hypocrites.

Monday 06 April

12:47am Wondering if I should now browse only through my top secret ssh tunnel? <http://url.ie/1exl>

10:28pm I know that 4oD is now mac-compatible (or so they say). But, PC users must have much more patience than I have with its awful interface.

11:40pm Can we blame someone for this? <http://unixwiz.net/ndos-shame.html> Java programmers? Microsoft? Marketing bods? The IT industry? Your mom?

Tuesday 07 April

12:56am POD from Lulu is really much cheaper than I thought. Hmm. Plotting.

- 01:01am Wikipedia only working through my US proxy - wonder if this is another 'whoops censored' thing. (on virgin broadband).
- 01:36am Gmail is to thunderbird as x is to Firefox. What's x? Not a silly question. What's the least local browser you could build?
- 08:04am He he he: http://www.zazzle.com/css_is_awesome_mug-168716435071981928 (via @swombat)
- 01:19pm <http://blog.wired.com/gadgets/2009/04/kindle-readers.html> eBook price protest via tagging.
- 05:17pm For everyone who secretly wants to travel everywhere in a wheelie bin: <http://tinyurl.com/s7jff> Actually, kind of cool.

Wednesday 08 April

- 12:46am This is utterly utterly horrific. <http://tinyurl.com/c7wv9e>
- 01:24pm Feeling dizzy after advertising overdose from UK Wired. Is this what magazines are like? Recommend: buy Adbusters mag instead. Less wnak.
- 01:32pm Reading that Russia's food production capability may be massively benefitted by climate change; and China's all but destroyed. #futurewar
- 05:50pm Reading that assault officers 'yet to come forward'. Wondering if the next Metropolitan Police posters will use slogan 'Met is Murder.'
- 06:33pm "Is it right to spend public money teaching vets to play the bongos?" A question that's always been in my mind. <http://tinyurl.com/csaect>
- 07:09pm My next pair of shoes will come from here: <http://www.adbusters.org/campaigns/blackspot>
- 07:54pm "Strip search travelers for fun" <http://tinyurl.com/7r75zo>

Thursday 09 April

- 10:23pm More frightening stuff for children - this time, Mr Bucket. <http://tinyurl.com/cdgfs5>

Friday 10 April

- 12:38am When the AP say 'website piracy' they mean that people are copying stuff that they make public. Solution: stop making stuff public. No?
- 02:28pm Thinking about web analytics - why don't websites make their data public? Red line up, blue line down, quick... refresh. Uniques, uniques.
- 03:07pm This is good. <http://www.statebook.co.uk/> And fear-inducing in a way that most coverage to date hasn't been.
- 03:17pm Remember the headlines following the 'terrorist' arrests in Plymouth: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/england/devon/7987840.stm> No further action
- 04:27pm Plymouth 'Terrorism' arrests were front page news; subsequent releases without charge should be too. <http://tinyurl.com/cnyv6g> #policestate
- 05:33pm Dear charities - nice shock tactics. Playing video games will *kill* my child. <http://www.4yourkids.org.uk/> F** off.
- 08:27pm Ooh - <http://tinyurl.com/aqvz8l> Key-shaped USB flash drive.
- 10:40pm Disappointed to hear that Yahoo is going to make more of delicious in its main search - here come the SEO fucktards that break everything...
- 11:02pm Have ordered Settlers of Catan. Sssh! Please don't tell Carcassone - it gets jealous.
- 11:19pm "All five have now been released, and will face no charges under the Terrorism Act. " <http://tinyurl.com/cy2gh9> This all smells really bad.

Saturday 11 April

- 12:49am Aside from the excellence of the stuff flowing through it, I appreciate that the delicious network doesn't taunt me with an 'unread' count.
- 01:46pm New blog post: raise a toast to British journalism! <http://tinyurl.com/cz3pq5>
- 03:29pm So, I'm an idiot intent on the death of british journalism because I said that Wired UK was so full of ads it made me feel ill. Hmm.
- 03:35pm Put your cynicism aside, this is a lovely smiley robot story: <http://www.tweenbots.com/>

- 03:46pm Viking Myths: <http://tinyurl.com/dan3tb> (these people have clearly never read Hagar the Horrible).
- 09:02pm Starting new hashtag *#babysteps* for remembering in years to come what the child did when.
- 09:04pm Today the child has spent the day squealing like a happy piggy and can almost sit up unsupported. Drool. Lots of drool. *#babysteps*
- 10:05pm "Crisps + shampoo = boom" <http://tinyurl.com/clebn8>
- 10:14pm <http://www.b3ta.com/board/9347924> (for anyone who ever lost months to Elite).

Sunday 12 April

- 12:09am No. Wrong. Don't mess with the drinking of beer: <http://sirtified.com/products/hopsidedown/>
- 12:21am **@oneplusi** - I thought you like weird? Wait a minute... there are different weards? Who knew?
- 12:34am **@threedaymonk** - oh boy. It's good. I hate you.
- 05:53pm This week's smell has largely been the air fresheners in various mini-cabs as we've ferried the child between various out-of-hour doctors.
- 06:15pm Wondering if one could use the huge amount of open-source code to derive what functions would be useful as a language's std library...
- 08:19pm It's a while since I moaned about BBC scare quotes: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/education/7995869.stm> What are they for in this headline?

Monday 13 April

- 02:20am Reminiscing about the last OutOfMemory error I ever saw. And wondering why the dickens we need short urls. Oh yeah, twitter.
- 02:34am Amazing how I remember albums' lyrics that I haven't listened to in 15 years. And that now they mean something old and new at the same time.
- 04:55pm Url shorteners are an 'inversion of power' when it comes to analytics - I can see how many people follow my links. Bah, social media tripe.

- 05:03pm The child has had a nasty cold and cough for the last couple of days - poor little creature is miserable. *#babysteps*
- 05:09pm Thinking of a twitter-based version of musical chairs. Last tweet to get through gets eliminated.
- 05:12pm Also, waiting for articles saying that twitter would have fixed the short url problem by now if they'd been programmed everything in ruby.
- 09:11pm **@threedaymonk** - <http://tinyurl.com/ddc5xq>
- 09:16pm A miracle: <http://tinyurl.com/c6pyl4>
- 09:52pm More on journalistic imbalance: <http://tinyurl.com/cegd59>
- 11:21pm **@charltonbrooker** - now this is imbalance in the news: <http://tinyurl.com/cegd59>
- 11:25pm **@fidothe** do? they? have? to? end? in? question? marks?

Tuesday 14 April

- 10:15am Arrests reported 422 times, release reported just 10 times: <http://tinyurl.com/cegd59>
- 11:15am **@tomtaylor** - <http://open.spotify.com/track/6cOTL8BGnWLKUT6ZsDeV4Z>
- 05:00pm Child utterly charming and totally symptomless for paediatrician's appointment. All good, but makes us look like neurotic parents.
- 05:19pm No response from emails sent to journalists; hardly anyone online seems interested in picking story up. Sigh. <http://tinyurl.com/cegd59>
- 06:04pm **@threedaymonk** - much obliged! threedaymonk

Wednesday 15 April

- 07:16pm Pigeons eating the grass seed on the lawn. Wish a) I didn't have ethical issues with killing them and b) I had a shotgun.

Thursday 16 April

- 12:00am <http://simson.net/ref/ugh.pdf> Chapter on X-Windows is dead funny. I vaguely remember reading it at uni.

- 12:06am @hlame - time travellers' tip: always memorise the winning lottery numbers in case you're thrown earlywards by a rogue time vortex. hlame
- 12:55am Authors! Putting googled Shakespeare quotes at the start of each chapter doesn't make you smarter; it's just a little bit patronising to us.
- 09:17am Need the fox back to scare off the pigeons. Hmm. This could escalate and end badly.
- 02:57pm WAYN relaunching... again - this time they're not just going to spam you by email, but on twitter, facebook, and everywhere else!
- 05:28pm The child has mastered the art of sitting up unaided. Yay! *#babysteps*

Friday 17 April

- 12:15am More photos of Leo uploaded to flickr - can hear his grandparents cooing remotely.
- 12:31am Someone just pointed out that the last tweet was the first time I haven't referred to the son and heir as 'the child'. He does have a name..
- 03:49pm If I could bake, right now I'd be making a cake with a file hidden in it to send to the Pirate Bay folks.
- 08:06pm The child's new trick is making the same noise as a dishwasher - clearly talking to machines more important than talking to us. *#babysteps*
- 11:45pm They don't watch enough disaster b-movies or sing enough nursery rhymes in Australia. <http://tinyurl.com/c7dehe>

Saturday 18 April

- 12:04am Behold, a script for mac users with ssh accounts on a server to quickly start/stop a SOCKS proxy through it: <http://gist.github.com/97330>
- 12:18am Co-op bank have sent me a welcome pack! Thanks, I've been a customer of yours for nearly 15 years...
- 12:36am Dotcom bust lessons: the Consumer Credit Act can save you from losing money when online traders go bust - but only if you use a credit card.

Sunday 19 April

- 04:38pm Playing with greasemonkey - think I need to find a javascript style that I'm comfortable with.
- 04:43pm (function() { ... })(); in javascript reminds me of smalltalk. Do it!
- 07:57pm I can't be the only person who tried TweetDeck and found it felt very much non-native. Are all AIR apps like that? Worked well for java...
- 10:54pm "Later, as he sat on his balcony eating the dog, Dr Robert Laing reflected on the unusual events that had taken place..." RIP J G Ballard.

Monday 20 April

- 12:49pm Christopher Walken, completing a census: <http://tinyurl.com/5sko76>
- 05:32pm Creating some kind of ruby/javascript/applescript monster to emulate greasemonkey in Safari.
- 05:39pm getElementByTagName must be one of the most common DOM calls, right? Why does it return different stuff in firefox and safari? Cmon, guys..
- 05:44pm Right, to LRUG, to LRUG, to buy a fat pig. Then home again, home again, jiggedy jig!

Tuesday 21 April

- 01:31am Enjoyed Stewart Lee's Comedy Vehicle. Should be more like this.
- 01:40am Not so much WANT but NEED: <http://www.datamancer.net/keyboards/deco1/deco1.htm> (via @th3maw)
- 01:43am Typing google into google and yahoo! into yahoo!. Just to see what happens. Won't type live into MSN live though - that would be odd.
- 12:48pm Highchair assembled - the child can now join us in our feasting. #babysteps
- 12:55pm @jodrell - bah, o ye of little faith. Built it, looks good. Only two bits left over, and they're quite small so probably not important.

- 12:57pm Ooh - while I remember. Child at first swimming lesson. Right now. Hope he's enjoying it. *#babysteps*
- 01:03pm Oh boy - a monitor arch: <http://twitpic.com/3o92t> (via *@nickiephilbin*)
- 05:38pm "They've lost all your money and now they want your brains!" <http://www.mcphoe.com/items/11924.html>

Wednesday 22 April

- 12:54am Still don't quite understand how banks losing money is anything but good for the economy.
- 01:13am *@threedaymonk* - maybe. I thought banks made money by charging what capital is worth + mark-up. Remove the mark-up and capital is cheaper?
- 02:01am *@threedaymonk* - I understand that, but can't help thinking that the banks' losses have a progressive effect, and that drives spending.
- 02:02am *@threedaymonk* - I mean I know I'm wrong, but I don't quite understand how the whole picture - including the money creation side - looks.
- 02:06am This *#babysteps* thing is working out nicely <http://tinyurl.com/d5fart>
- 11:35am Even Darth Vader's lot probably had a Corporate Social Responsibility budget - there was probably an annual Death Star funday/marathon.

Thursday 23 April

- 09:37am Yet again, SEO-caked affiliate and review filth in Google prevents me getting after-sales advice. This time for a washing machine.
- 01:27pm Dear web 2.0 fucktards, when I invite people why do you always ask me for their email addresses - can you give me link I can IM instead?
- 02:05pm I rule at SEO: number one for 'siemens washing machine broken'. (I'm guessing that's a temporary blip).
- 04:05pm Astronauts have three ears: a left one, a right one and a final front ear. *#nasafact*

- 07:16pm Sick of people who earn £150,000+ saying 'we're not rich by any means'. 99% of people earn less than you. What would rich mean to them?
- 07:29pm CatShitOne: no clue what this is all about, but it looks fantastic. Like Beatrix Potter meets Andy McNab. <http://tinyurl.com/djj8j8>
- 11:39pm Does the moral rights section of the Berne Convention allow artists themselves to prevent fatuous piracy prosecutions by record labels?

Friday 24 April

- 03:53am Pretty excited about this Print on demand machine: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/books/2009/apr/24/espresso-book-machine-blackwell> Must visit.
- 11:18am This should get an award for the worst and most misleading infographic ever: <http://bit.ly/sVdSW> Well done the Economist.
- 11:27am He he he - <http://www.jasperfforde.com/toad/snoop.html>
- 08:27pm If the economy shrinks by 3.5%, doesn't that just send us back to, say, 2004? That was an alright year for me. Somewhat serious question.
- 08:50pm The British Humanist Association doesn't speak for me. <http://tinyurl.com/c4s47s>

Sunday 26 April

- 10:32pm Dear chaps who publish PDF books: is it so hard to give the file the same name as the book instead of a random string of characters? No.

Monday 27 April

- 03:14pm This made me laugh: <http://www.useit.com/alertbox/headlines-bbc.html> Any regular visitor to BBC news should cringe at their awful headlines.
- 04:08pm http://blog.unto.net/unto/breakdown/the_disc/ "As far as I know, no one is certain who made the original."

- 05:50pm Am I the only person still suffering childhood trauma from finding out the Green Cross Code man and Darth Vader were one and the same.
- 06:02pm A goddamn audio modem for the iPhone. Brilliant: <http://www.perceptdev.com/tincan/> Please let it sound like a V22. For old times' sake.

Tuesday 28 April

- 12:27am Thinking of starting a new hashtag:
#railsconfswineflup0rnarmageddon
- 01:03pm Back from watching the child's second swimming lesson - dolphin genes he has.
- 09:11pm Swine flu hotline story? Someone get me a picture of a phone, on f***ing fire: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/health/8022467.stm>

May

Monday 04 May

09:23pm No Zappa on Spotify. Bah. In a Zappa mood.

Wednesday 06 May

03:38pm Child's enormous wooden cot cum cage assembled.
#babysteps

03:40pm Eye test at four - wondering if I should be warming up or doing last minute revision.

05:08pm Eye test passed - usual confusion about one short- and one long-sighted eye. Not blind though.

05:59pm New specs - binocular vision restored. Welcome to the third dimension, brain.

08:39pm So Qype, where's the stop sending me spam button? Oh found it, I say spAM

Friday 08 May

10:47am Taking child to see his first Star Trek movie at the baby cinema screening. Phasers to gurgle. *#babysteps*

04:25pm "R ... and P ended up having a "Boris Becker broom cupboard" style sexual encounter" <http://tinyurl.com/rbd9lf> Biography a la wikipedia.

07:58pm "All this filtering for spam makes it a lot harder for your email marketing messages to get through." Fuckwits. Marketing messages = spam.

11:02pm Hackday packing fail - can't find ethernet hub that I was going to take in case wi-fi is rubbish.

11:22pm @hlame - hmm...

Saturday 09 May

07:36am 7:36 in the goddamned morning. Who knew? Awaiting iron horse to London town.

06:32pm *#openbackday* - first no wifi, now loud music - are they trying to discourage hacking?

Monday 11 May

- 10:58am Wondering if when Marketing scrotes say 'barbeque season' did they mean to say 'summer'?
- 11:56am **@delineator** - pic of you, saluting like Mussolini. <http://www.flickr.com/photos/phploveme/3519138697/in/photostream/>
- 03:08pm Rules to live by: any subject or discipline that has the word 'science' in its name isn't a science at all; 'manager' functions similarly.
- 04:41pm Oh dear, this may not be good news for the fight against quackery: <http://bit.ly/9ROHB>

Tuesday 12 May

- 01:49pm Two things I'd like to deepen my knowledge of this week: RubyCocoa and Yahoo's YQL. *#openhacklondon*
- 01:49pm Following up recent hack day experimentation with Ruby Cocoa - surprised how well it works.
- 02:11pm It's a bit easier for Cameron to puff and preen about his own frugality: he's worth £30m according to the Mail. <http://tinyurl.com/5hvdwc>
- 05:03pm Still funny: <http://bit.ly/1aevEi>
- 08:03pm New programming term: mockturation - taking the piss through the overuse of mocks and stubs.
- 09:05pm We're an awful long way from Dave Nellist's stint in parliament as a 'worker's MP on a worker's wage'.
- 09:17pm If your gross weekly pay is more than £852, you are in the top 10% of wage earners in the UK. MPs earn over£1200 per week. And they fiddle?

Wednesday 13 May

- 04:29pm Oh dear - it appears I've left the house without my wallet... Hoping I can scrounge drinks off friends at LRUG nights.

Thursday 14 May

- 12:36am If I ever feel the need to put a headshot on my blog, I hope won't choose one that makes me look ten years younger. You know who you are...
- 12:39am Praise be for the lovely folk at LRUG nights who let me drink without money and paid for my train ride home! Next time, won't forget wallet!
- 10:20am A modest proposal: <http://bit.ly/4w3AKD>
- 11:30am Don't really understand why we got mentioned, but thanks Guardian! <http://bit.ly/13gWQP>

Sunday 17 May

- 06:40pm On a good day, the child can get his entire foot into his mouth. Drooly feet. Mmm. *#babysteps*
- 10:39pm Once upon a time in NatWest *#creditcrunchmovies*
- 10:43pm Lidl big man *#creditcrunchmovies*
- 10:45pm Aldi fine young cannibals *#creditcrunchmovies*
- 11:06pm Lo-fat sacrament for weight-conscious catholics: <http://bit.ly/Veyvd>
- 11:20pm Am late to the Wolfram Alpha thing. Why does it render all the answers as images? And why can't it tell me precise sources?
- 11:33pm Following **@bongbot** - also remembering that we could see Big Ben's clock from the hospital room and used it to time the wife's contractions.

Monday 18 May

- 05:43pm Wow - <http://www.conservatives.com/expenses/expensesPopup.html> Am impressed.
- 05:48pm Usually, the NHS behind the headlines blog is excellent. But, come on, no such thing as man-flu? <http://tinyurl.com/pa8y8k>
- 06:17pm Wolfram alpha is a dead end. Can't copy results, no direct links to sources. On the plus side, no spammy affiliate links... yet.

- 06:27pm I take it back - you can copy results from Wolfram Alpha, but you need to click on them. How utterly obvious. Hmm.
- 08:31pm **@lukeredpath** - buying guns while pissed off and drunk?
- 10:44pm The diagrams of the moon mission on the blackboard are excellent: <http://tinyurl.com/qtx6gr> MISSION. EARTH. MOON. VEHICLE.
- 10:47pm **@threedaymonk** - was that the one that declares Dunkirk a victory?
- 10:50pm Rather amused that the BNP used a picture of a Polish-flown spitfire on their election leaflet: <http://www.303squadron.com/fleet.htm>

Tuesday 19 May

- 02:49am Pretty sure the best thing about buying 'cloud' services is never having to speak to salespeople. Sign up, don't sign up. No pressure.
- 03:00pm Heh: <http://www.tf2.com/post.php?id=2515> (how to handle a PR whoops).
- 03:12pm From the trailer I think new Sherlock Holmes pic might be subtitled "Die Hard, Watson!". (This may not be a bad thing.)
- 03:16pm Chap in Starbucks just ordered a large mocha, with five shots of coffee and double cream. Impressive.
- 03:29pm Spot-on criticism of lack of source transparency and reference in Wolfram Alpha: <http://bit.ly/17guxQ>
- 03:34pm Someone needs to beat apple with the clue-stick. <http://bit.ly/KwDzL> This nonsense keeps happening.
- 04:04pm Version-controlled CVs (that's resumé, for ex-colonials): <http://bit.ly/hCduP> (This could be big).
- 04:05pm **@lukeredpath** - am fighting the cynic in me who says it's because Phonegap apps will build for iPhone, blackberry and android.
- 04:27pm "The weirdest thing about Wolfram|Alpha is that they have a control room... like the villains from 24." <http://bit.ly/1ahnGO>
- 05:18pm Impossible not to feel some sense of awe looking at these space shuttle pics: <http://bit.ly/tjG0n>

07:03pm 'Screw-unit' - javascript framework. No idea if it's any good, wish I'd thought of that name though. <http://tinyurl.com/5cow87>

Wednesday 20 May

01:33am "Tweeting Too Hard is one of the fucking funniest things I've read in a long time:" <http://is.gd/v3M3> (via **@jaggeree, @qwghlm**)

01:59am This seems a lot like Wolfram Alpha: <http://www.mcphee.com/items/M6347.html>

04:19pm The child is six months old today! Tonight we're giving him carrot and banana to celebrate. His first solid food. *#babysteps*

04:55pm **@mikebutcher** the BBC always fact check: <http://twitter.com/beng/statuses/1139095655> (this story led their technology section for days).

11:27pm Child enjoyed his first meal today - banana and carrot. He did his ho-ho-ho calpol chortle. Happy six month birthday, child! *#babysteps*

Thursday 21 May

12:44pm A floating duck island! Oh boy, I can see why the telegraph has let this expenses thing drag out - too many good stories.

03:47pm "Official advice is to flick the cards with a fingernail because they make a distinctive noise." <http://bit.ly/pAkr6> Criminally absurd.

04:03pm Want to store terabytes of stuff on S3? Send them a big old disk in the post, and they'll do the rest: <http://aws.amazon.com/importexport/>

04:08pm All very well, but it doesn't explain why we keep having to buy teaspoons. Where do they go? Do they melt? <http://bit.ly/17lrHV>

05:29pm **@vero** - imagining **@jodrell** bounding with all the grace and lithe of a mountain-goat...

07:57pm Every brush with officialdom now requires a photocopy of a recent utility bills and proof of address. To *prevent* identity theft. WTF?

- 07:57pm **@threedaymonk** - where have all the wainwrights gone?
- 08:45pm Google should not show me affiliate and sales sites from results unless my search terms mention price, reviews, etc.
- 09:24pm "Ihre Papieren, bitte" <http://tinyurl.com/qqvg7e>

Friday 22 May

- 02:59pm Just had big nosebleed in Starbucks. Truly touched by the kind way people stared, pointed and tutted in disgust at me.
- 05:29pm If our economy depends on second- or third-order measurements of production - growth, growth of growth, etc. - shouldn't we redesign it?

Saturday 23 May

- 07:55pm Lovely picnic in Regent's Park for **@lazyatom**'s birthday. Surprised to learn that geese are invisible to children - makes sense though.
- 09:54pm **@swombat** - I used to be a fan of relentless A/B testing; but I now think it's often a passive aggressive way of not reaching team decisions. swombat

Sunday 24 May

- 03:11pm I get why the BBC can't come out and take a public stand against Phorm, but they could at least refer to them as 'ex-malware company, Phorm'
- 04:39pm Reading lots of C code. That every string must be replaced with a *#define* kCONSTANT seems like pointless cargo-culting to me. No?
- 09:41pm Never really thought about whistle performance before - <http://acmewhistles.co.uk/images/graph.gif>
- 09:43pm "WACKY designers . . . on a giant brass whistle": <http://acmewhistles.co.uk/images/I1.jpg>

Monday 25 May

- 02:45pm Remembering being woken this morning by the child, who had turned 90° in his cot and was loudly licking the bars.
#babysteps
- 03:09pm Yesterday, the child started talking back to his talking book - mainly saying Mooooo. *#babysteps*
- 03:59pm Sometimes reading Cocoa documentation is like having really long words shouted at me in camel case.
NSLongEnoughToScareTheHardestJavaDev
- 04:03pm Cocoa - for people who like to call a spade an
NSLongHandledGardeningImplementInstance
- 04:38pm Fools! They're lizards. Lizards I tell you: <http://bit.ly/JSgfe>
(remake of V!!)

Tuesday 26 May

- 02:35pm There's an Orwellian, spin-laden irony in David Cameron writing about 'taking power from old-boy networks'.
<http://tinyurl.com/rdebw3>
- 02:41pm Yes, it's peculiarly Leninist to suggest that entrusting a vanguard of old etonians and minor noblemen is the way to redistribute power...
- 05:32pm Dear parliament - do you really think you'll get quality people to work for you with job ads like this? <http://bit.ly/QG9Iv> Agile, my arse.
- 07:48pm **@threedaymonk** - did you go to the home page of the site? It's even more beautiful, if that were possible. I thought it must be a parody.
- 07:53pm **@robertbrook** - is this your daily commute? <http://www.pict-careers.org.uk> From space?

Wednesday 27 May

- 12:10am I'm guessing "the PRS collected a record [amount] in the first three months of 2009" because the internet has killed music. Oh yes.

Thursday 28 May

- 12:04am Back home - fine alesmanship from **@chrisroos** and **@floehopper**. Hoping **@chrisroos** made his train...
- 12:31am Mmm. Pizza.
- 12:58am **@threedaymonk** class Tories;
belongs_to :epp; :pretends_to_belong_to :some_group_that_doesnt_include_all_th
end;
- 01:04am " As a bachelor who lives on investment income... this is normal" Hmm. WTF? <http://tinyurl.com/r7x44a> This whole story is just a tad odd.
- 10:57am How did I not know there was an Tory MP called John Butterfill? What an cracking name for a trough-guzzler.
- 10:59am **@coupde** - I'd say August 1993 would be a good month.
- 02:35pm **@cherkoff** - this is why it's so good: <http://bit.ly/igKDE>
- 02:37pm Looking forward to dinner with the other half tonight. Leaving the child with his granny - first time he'll be without one of us. *#babysteps*
- 02:53pm Best things: <http://bit.ly/aBwjR>
- 03:02pm What's all this 'standing down at the next election' nonsense - these crooks should leave their seats now and prompt by-elections.
- 03:48pm When David Cameron says that his wife owns a field in Scunthorpe, I wonder if he's referring to the 3,000 acre Normanby Park?
- 03:51pm Of course, I meant 300 acre... As if that matters.
- 04:39pm This is why I don't live in Wales... <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/wales/8071865.stm> :D (via **@jennybee**)

Friday 29 May

- 11:08am Gosh - every P2P filesharer has stolen £92,000. Wow. Significant. Or maybe bollocks. <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/technology/8073068.stm>
- 11:09am Oh and BBC - do you really think that the complete works of Charles Dickens would take up ~10Gb? <http://tinyurl.com/ml3nmp>

- 12:30pm There's a limit to piracy and that's the amount of stuff the most dedicated pirate could consume (around £40 a day) or £14,000/year.
- 12:32pm You'd need 10million people that did **nothing** but consume pirated content to even come close to £120billion consumed. A nonsense number.
- 12:33pm And, while they were spending **all** their time consuming pirated stuff, they'd still need to earn the £14,000 a year they'd otherwise pay.
- 12:40pm **@hlame** - I don't know - it feels to me like pretty poor research that hasn't sense-checked their conclusions against any reasonable measure.
- 12:49pm **@hlame** - and if you're right, then the amount of 'piracy' will drop as broadband speeds improve and folks don't build huge libraries?
- 02:22pm Noticing that the BBC has changed their £120bn to £12bn. Still, they're professional journalists who fact-check before they publish, right?
- 02:24pm No, I'm not making it up: <http://www.newsniffer.co.uk/articles/223216/diff/4/5>
- 02:27pm **@jodrell** - I'm sure that's right. I'm guessing the bit about 'tens of billions of pounds' is still a typo, waiting to be corrected.
- 02:50pm Been thinking about it and the commercial value of content is closer to £1 per hour. So upper limit for full-time pirates is < £2900 per yr.
- 03:13pm One side-effect of digital peer-to-peer piracy is halting all that funding of terrorists and organised crime that dodgy DVDs caused...
- 04:22pm Reliable reports from the wife (**@elderberry**) that the child has learnt to roll over - all the better to find things to lick. *#babysteps*
- 04:26pm Just read that Bill Clinton said "I've seen the future and it's the Elephant and Castle".
- 05:51pm Am reading that worldwide spend on filmed entertainment is ~£35bn ; distributors get £18bn of that. And p2p costs £12bn in the UK? My arse.
- 09:39pm s/trains/threads/ and this is all you need to know about concurrency: <http://bit.ly/m58Tr>

Saturday 30 May

- 12:51pm Shocked by sheer amount of rubbish in the SABIP report on 'Digital Consumers'. Big blog post coming.
- 03:02pm New blog post about the silly numbers in this weeks' 'everyone is stealing stuff on the internet' hooaha: <http://bit.ly/14DPqe>
- 03:33pm Not content with rolling over when awake, the child now rolls over in his sleep too. He's pretty proud of himself.
#babysteps
- 05:41pm An absolutely dire speech from Gordon Brown, but I think he shines in answering the questions: <http://tinyurl.com/makjqj>
- 05:44pm What I mean is that I agree with hardly anything he says, but he comes across as thoughtful and knowledgeable; at least in the transcript.
- 10:12pm According to this animated short, I'm well on the way to world domination: <http://tinyurl.com/nfo6np>

June

Monday 01 June

- 02:56pm The child insists on rolling on to his tummy - unfortunately, as much as he loves to be rolling, he hates being on his tummy. *#babysteps*
- 03:01pm Can't work out if we're registered to vote in Shad Thames, where we were, or in Greenwich where we are. No voting cards yet...
- 03:12pm I wonder why so much good stuff comes to me through my del.icio.us network; while links flowing through twitter are somewhat spammy?
- 03:22pm Ludicrous graphic from the lib-dems - supposed staunch supporters of proportional representation: <http://bit.ly/GbTXR> (from **@currybet**)
- 03:23pm Oops - should have linked to whole blog post: <http://bit.ly/vWIYt>
- 03:25pm Re: twitter v delicious - I think it might be selection bias; on delicious I usually can see what the link is about before I click through..
- 04:17pm Watching videos of mid 1980s university lectures. Must be a general rule: there's always one student who turns up in shirt and tie.
- 04:39pm **@threedaymonk** - or the decoy for the the undercover operative, working for the Man. But then, if I could work that out, so could the Man... threedaymonk
- 07:10pm Seems like GM failure might be another poor business architecture problem - they should really put software engineers in charge.
- 07:19pm Time to order new business cards. Hmm. What am I? Who am I? How do you talk to me? Bah, put it off until tomorrow. I don't know.
- 09:00pm I have made awesome mock-hobnobs. Me. Baking. Biscuits. Nom nom nom.

Tuesday 02 June

- 02:36pm The Telegraph expenses investigation is awesome. But I can't help think it could have been better crowdsourced: <http://tinyurl.com/p7lnh7>
- 03:11pm I rarely come across programmers who I've thought typed too slowly. But, I've come across loads of typists who can't program. Hmm...
- 05:17pm Just remembered that, a couple of days ago, the child launched MacVim by banging on my keyboard. A fearful omen? *#babysteps*
- 05:36pm Eek! The child can now also roll from his front on to his back - he's mobile! Urgent baby-proofing needed. *#babysteps*
- 07:40pm Ding-dong the witch is dead.
- 08:45pm Next ukulele song for the child: Nellie the elephant.
- 10:02pm What about a website where we can send all the social media folk? They 'd talk to each other, and leave us alone. We'd all pretend. Shhhh...

Wednesday 03 June

- 12:06am Don't want to watch this - just in case it doesn't live up to the awesome programme it is in my head: <http://bit.ly/16MsjD>
- 01:42am Wish I had an Insomniac ISP that did maintenance during the day. My out-of-hours aren't the same as yours.
- 02:51pm Processing demo/sharing/learning/collaboration thing: <http://www.sketchpatch.net/> Looks interesting.

Thursday 04 June

- 02:42am Still no Zappa on Spotify. Just saying.
- 06:04am Hmm. Oh well. Have failed to sleep again.
- 07:35am Everytime I visit a government website a bloody user survey pops up - please stop doing this. It's annoying and won't give correct data.
- 12:41pm Today I am mostly sporting Byronic hair and going to Gatwick and back.

- 01:07pm Going to code various voting systems so that I can understand them. Has anyone already done this?
- 01:22pm **@delineator** - oh good, will start with that - want a chunk of code that I can put on the wikipedia page for each method.
- 04:59pm **@delineator** - was disappointed to find this wasn't about your countryfolk: <http://bit.ly/u2HoT>

Friday 05 June

- 01:37am Excellent time at LRUG Nights - it's a bit sad that I care about lines of code the way some people care about puppies.

Saturday 06 June

- 12:03am **@bengoldacre** - are my figures - from the SABIP report - right? <http://tinyurl.com/pcutgc> (Oh, and for extra credit: <http://bit.ly/7vMAi>)

Monday 08 June

- 03:25pm Bah - won't make **@lrug** tonight - child-entertaining duties. How do I relinquish my ticket?
- 08:40pm Beautifully put: <http://blogs.harvardbusiness.org/haque/2009/06/wonga.html> (Disgustingly, wonga is a UK start-up darling. Shouldn't be).
- 10:26pm Such a geek - trying to find out which of the new foods the child is eating gives him a rash. Hmm. Binary search! *#babysteps*
- 11:05pm Thinking you can't understand how the web grew so quickly without some grasp of http and html and without knowing what 'view source' means.

Tuesday 09 June

- 12:05am Apple's Grand Central Dispatch: a system-aware worker pool, with some syntactic sugar for making jobs and new diagnostic tooling. STTCPW...

- 12:13am Reading that I'm wrong: Apple's GCD means closure now baked into the OS X c library. Really? How does that make threading safer? Confused.
- 12:59am So, the palm pre is javascript and html. Hmm - is there a 'view source' button? That would be sparkly.
- 01:01am Had forgotten how much I enjoyed Lisp the first time round (Um, in 1989). Am getting there again. Cons cells at the ready...
- 03:02am No sympathy for those O2 subscribers moaning about having to honour the contract we all signed to get the 3G iPhone. This was the point...
- 03:46am Really don't want PR based on party lists - it's not enough that every constituent has an MP; every MP must also have a constituency...
- 12:03pm If you're ever wondering if it could get any weirder. It already did: <http://bit.ly/ByCJi>
- 02:37pm Need a big experimental device like the Large Hadron Collider to work out how rail tickets are priced. Maybe that's what it's for...

Wednesday 10 June

- 02:34am Computer Science Logo Style - these books inspired a younger me. Online now, for all. <http://bit.ly/kbp5U>
- 08:28pm I read the last week's Guardian leader saying Brown should go - had no idea it was 'full-page' until the Mail website told me.

Thursday 11 June

- 02:25pm Not much of a god-botherer, but surely Jesus isn't dead? <http://tinyurl.com/l7urlz> (via @NewHumanist)
- 02:35pm On a train, high-speed, hurtling Wales-ward. With the child and the wife. *#babysteps*
- 02:56pm Seems that BT are mad about iPlayer because it allows folk to use bandwidth they've already paid for, but that BT doesn't want to give them.
- 03:36pm @snowblink not least "Shakespeare, who penned plays including ..." Um. Who? "Leonardo da Vinci, the artist who painted the Mona Lisa".

04:04pm **@bengoldacre** - also, unless the 'thieves' only spend the money they save on VAT-free goods (say.. milk?) then there is no VAT loss.

07:44pm Wales. Not much different from the last time...

Friday 12 June

10:22pm Proper comment: <http://bit.ly/ixnia>

Monday 15 June

08:30pm Just wrong: <http://www.chumba.com/thatchep.html> But, timely.

09:36pm "Non, ce n'était pas le radeau de la Méduse, ce bateau..."

Tuesday 16 June

02:39am Don't understand - schools get £5 - £8,000 per pupil, and they're begging for £50 from parents? Hmm. <http://tinyurl.com/nd4fgb>

02:18pm Hope Lord Carter isn't the 21st century's Caesar - unintentionally torching the Alexandrian library while setting his own ships alight...

03:45pm Oh BBC news, your journalism knows no depths, and no shallows either: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/england/8084112.stm>

03:47pm (last tweet via **@jodrell**)

03:56pm *#digitalbritain* repeats nonsense SABIP 'Star Wars DVD in 3 minutes, complete Charles Dickens in 10 minutes' soundbite. Who'd have thunk it?

04:06pm "Open source ... ensuring ... IP created by Government IT is available for re-use by anyone." *#digitalbritain* He he he.

04:09pm Hmm the 'current fragmented approach to Media Literacy' diagram on p.40 is awesomely crass. MBA-tastic. *#digitalbritain*

04:10pm **@threedaymonk** - hah, looks like we're reading it at the same time!

04:22pm If you have to call something a 'Proportionate Notification Response', that's a clue that it's not really proportionate.
#digitalbritain

Wednesday 17 June

01:58am Since everyone makes up the file-sharing numbers, somewhat confused by how much a 70% reduction will be - gazillions of pounds, probably.

11:23pm Gosh - London 2012 gets weirder and weirder. <http://tinyurl.com/pwgy8z> Now, with added military muscle flexing.

11:28pm Does anyone have a link to Lord Carlile's latest report?
<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/8105093.stm>

11:31pm Found it - <http://tinyurl.com/kok4fn>

Thursday 18 June

01:04am Latest blog post - "Fabric piracy costs UK economy \$100bn a year"? <http://bit.ly/i10wk>

03:27pm Latest blog post - "Does fabric piracy cost UK economy \$100bn a year"? <http://bit.ly/i10wk>

03:35pm One wonders why Gordon Brown stopped paying the piper: <http://mps-expenses.guardian.co.uk/page/37/> (via @SeanClarke)

03:36pm @simonw - Awesome. Would be useful to be able to rotate landscape expense pages - <http://mps-expenses.guardian.co.uk/page/60/>

04:04pm Dear Telegraph, are you learning about teh interweb yet? It's not about linkbait. <http://mps-expenses.guardian.co.uk/> Go, guardian, go.

09:13pm Sorry @jodrell, you're upgrading Jen?

11:18pm "George Osborne, claimed £47 for two copies of a DVD of his own speech on value for taxpayers' money in 2005" Couldn't make it up...

11:47pm Still not read any logical reason why broadband monies should be raised with a fixed-line telephone levy. There seems no connection.

Friday 19 June

- 01:41pm It is your duty to vote in this poll: <http://bit.ly/16uEaD> (via @MariBiscuits)
- 11:32pm Going through my MPs expenses. Scans of forms are proof that no-one ever writes in those 'Office Use Only' sections. Ever.

Sunday 21 June

- 07:50pm Re-reading *#digitalbritain* - I expected a more sophisticated model of digital culture - separating creation from distribution at the least.

Monday 22 June

- 05:56pm Dr David Banner had an awful lot of bad luck: <http://kennethjohnson.us/HulkOutList.html> Hulk no like bad luck. (via @MariBiscuits)
- 07:20pm Gosh - are we really going to get an Etonian speaker as well? This is like a little-Windsor coup d'état.
- 09:06pm @robertbrook - I'm not short! I'm just further away than you think.
- 09:46pm Bercow 'chuntering' motherlode - <http://bit.ly/oVZB8> (via @robertbrook)

Tuesday 23 June

- 08:24pm Hmm... <http://pirateparty.org.uk/>

Friday 26 June

- 04:09pm Uhoh - child is mobile. Crazy combinations of belly-swivels, forward flops, back-arches, butt wiggling - nearly crawling. *#babysteps*
- 05:09pm Heading for a beer. Or two. Red Lion, holborn if anyone's after a cheeky pint...
- 11:42pm Drunk folk talking java at Shadwell DLR station. Odd.

Saturday 27 June

- 12:15am **@jodrell** - how odd - people singing Killers song on train back too. Concert in London, maybe?
- 12:21am BBC apparently has no usage statistics for its own (significant) news site: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/technology/8120324.stm>
- 12:30am 666 unread messages - the inbox of the beast.
- 12:40am Not making this up. 666th message is from a sales guy called Damian.
- 12:45am Bah - new folks following me have pushed unread count to 670. Suspect they're secretly in league with Damian, salesman of the devil.
- 01:00am Can't believe the child is (just about) crawling. So proud of the little monster. *#babysteps*
- 01:27am **@jemimakiss** - you have all this to look forward to: <http://bit.ly/igKDE>
- 01:03pm "You should spend more time on shoes than you do on cars" <http://bit.ly/RdxrS>

Sunday 28 June

- 07:10pm "If a man is left alone in a room with a tea cosy, and he does not attempt to wear it, he should not be trusted." <http://tinyurl.com/4y3hqz>
- 08:09pm Hmm. London 2012's plans mean that Greenwich Park will be completely private for (at least) July - October in 2012. That's just wrong.
- 08:12pm **@robertbrook** - <http://bit.ly/Vksk9>
- 08:26pm Hmm. I live here, so apparently my community leader is being consulted. Who he/she?
- 08:34pm **@robertbrook** - indeed, but the ones we elected are the ones doing the consulting.
- 09:56pm The child has been trying so hard to crawl that his knees are all red and sore. *#babysteps*

Monday 29 June

04:45pm No record company could have built this: <http://bit.ly/ul8mj>

Tuesday 30 June

- 03:39am "Trained bees wouldn't be very welcome at airport[s], but they could potentially work wonders in a war zone." <http://tinyurl.com/nm4x6v>
- 03:42pm This standard consultant-wank practice of BCCing all recipients to emails must stop. Are you so scared of us talking to each other?
- 03:43pm On that last point, when I get a group email, why can't I just click a button to join a chatroom with all the other recipients?
- 03:44pm Every company should have a social network where the shareholders can talk. Any non-public companies do this already?
- 06:30pm GOD-JESUS ROBOT <http://bit.ly/d7ewf> (via **@MariBiscuits**)
- 09:48pm Please don't talk about 'driving traffic to your website'. If you had a shop would you talk about 'herding shoppers inside'?
- 10:30pm **@ourman** I half-see your point. When I hear 'driving traffic' the image that pops into mind is the cowboy's cattle drive. Not so different...

July

Wednesday 01 July

- 12:31am Whoops: <http://tinyurl.com/mdcgpm> Army crows to press about Afghan poppy seed seizure, only later to find they'd nabbed batch of mung beans.
- 02:18am 1) 80% of unit tests you've written will never fail and are therefore pointless. 2) Unless you're from the future, you don't know which 80%.
- 05:56am Ooh - I wonder if this is any good: <http://www.c-jump.com/> Board game to teach programming.
- 03:04pm I take it all back - nothing wrong with this BBC news story: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/business/8128263.stm>
- 08:49pm Shit press release about new eBook reader. Who writes these things, and why do they still have a job? <http://tinyurl.com/mckssx>
- 09:47pm Hoping to go see this toaster tomorrow: <http://tinyurl.com/nozd3t> Made from scratch....

Thursday 02 July

- 12:31am Sage advice: if you have an aquarium (cough, **@jodrell**) don't clean it naked, or go to the loo holding a fish. <http://tinyurl.com/ppmu82>
- 01:05am **@threedaymonk** - you forgot the hyphens: expert-sex-change. Otherwise folks'll get the wrong idea.
- 03:33am Odd to hear Cameron apologise for section 28 - when those of us with longer memories remember that it's the issue on which he was selected.
- 07:22am Ha - it's easier to geocode towns in Southern Rhodesia than in the UK. And Southern Rhodesia doesn't exist any more...
- 03:39pm Reading another lousy article about twitter. The thing is... my twitter is not your twitter, and it's not his/her/its twitter either. k?
- 03:45pm "To BP's credit, its commitment to greenwashing appears to be slipping too." <http://tinyurl.com/mepes7>

- 07:59pm I think this is illegal: <http://tinyurl.com/lx2ns4> under <http://tinyurl.com/m952go> (What on earth is happening at the Telegraph?)
- 10:51pm Um, when you email me to tell me that 34% of business email is unnecessary, sales folk, you have failed the irony test.

Friday 03 July

- 11:04pm "It never, ever came close to achieving these performance goals." Not a government project! <http://tinyurl.com/kwohgy>
- 11:10pm Smells fishy: <http://bit.ly/3ssiQ9> Sounds like a bug, not a hack. Oh, it's those anonymous Russians..
- 11:55pm Hmm - if I'm going to *#opentech* tomorrow, I'd better try to get to sleep before 7am. Unlike last night.

Saturday 04 July

- 12:48am "Wendy's stealing clothes from Marks and Sparks, Freddy's got spots from ripping off stars from his face"
- 01:01am Listening to Quadrophenia - can remember writing out the names of the songs on the cassette tape inlay 20+ years ago. Now on Spotify.
- 01:03am Quadrophenia was released the week I was born. Must check what albums came out when the child was born last year. *#babysteps*
- 08:54am **@robertbrook** "listen... Do you smell something"
- 09:19am Heading to opentech and wondering if **@hlame** arranged a secret metropolitan breakfast I could crash.
- 09:57am Child and wife at home with 'orrible colds while I live it up at *#opentech*. Missing them lots.
- 07:01pm Madonna at the O2, oh how you've ruined my trip home. No, really, thanks.

Sunday 05 July

- 08:46am **@lazyatom** - hoping last tweet wasn't some kind of euphemism.

- 08:48am Looks like I knew loads of folk at *#opentech* that I don't remember seeing. Serves me right for not having slept the night before.
- 07:34pm Had not heard of Pynchon Gate, 'a practical pseudonymous message retrieval system'. <http://www.abditum.com/pynchon/> Have now.
- 08:39pm Reading William Perrin's future civil service vision: Blackhall <http://bit.ly/14Hsph>
- 09:43pm 'So-and-so refuses to rule out' stories are such a waste of pixels.
- 10:31pm Have just tried and failed the UK citizenship test. Should I, um, leave or something? <http://bit.ly/1irE0Y> (via *@dahowlett, @robertbrook*)
- 11:13pm Alternative questions for the UK citizenship test.: <http://tinyurl.com/quzrcd> "Things the Daily Mail thinks about the UK"
- 11:20pm Interestingly - in 24 questions on the US naturalization test I've yet to get one wrong: <http://www.uscis.gov/portal/site/uscis>

Monday 06 July

- 12:58am I've had my entire health records lost, twice. Still here, does't affect me. The whole centralised health records drive is odd.
- 01:23am Learning more about health records - the tip of an NHS information liquidity problem (in part, as usual, caused by proprietary solutions).
- 01:26am I don't care if Google, Microsoft or other store my data. But, NHS, please just contract to store data, don't buy a 'health records app'.
- 02:46pm "Can we say, 'Jesus is gay'? Or can we ask, 'Is God in a biscuit?'" <http://tinyurl.com/q3g7td> Blasphemy law likely to pass in Ireland.
- 03:03pm We came across these shysters: <http://tinyurl.com/ojn24m> Should not be allowed this commercial 'opportunity' to pick on new mothers.
- 07:57pm Victory is mine! Child fed, bathed, read to, fed again, rocked to sleep. I win. Now, 10 minutes of peace until he wakes. *#babysteps*

- 08:00pm **@oneplusi** - did you get to go here? <http://www.bankeraat.dk/> Nice bar, a trifle odd.
- 08:17pm Is there really a chap called Tyler Durden at Zerohedge, Reuters? You realise it's probably a pseudonym, right? <http://tinyurl.com/ofws6l>
- 11:47pm Hmm. Jesus the hot air balloon: <http://shipoffools.com/gadgets/witnessing/050.html>
- 11:49pm This is pretty good too: punching Amish puppet <http://bit.ly/tL4Tv>

Tuesday 07 July

- 12:14am "The challenge [is] engineering a bacon structure strong enough to withstand ... a 5,000°F bacon plasma flame." <http://www.popsci.com/bacon>
- 12:45am Keep seeing the oddest stuff coming out of the Telegraph. Has someone been putting acid in their water-chillers?
- 12:47am "Anyone who uses the word 'workshop outside the context of light engineering is a TWAT' " Gosh that's good advice. <http://tinyurl.com/lvhg57>
- 02:56pm This makes me so angry: <http://bit.ly/12dxb6> Why are we inventing a controversy - it's fringe and should be ignored. No place in science.
- 11:25pm Would pay for iPhone paranormal investigation device - like the one the Ghostbusters have. Get to it, thingmakers.
- 11:36pm I'm guessing if you had the Ghostbusters theme song as a ringtone, it would impossible not to answer the phone 'Ghostbusters!'.
- 11:44pm "Your Excellency, I think we should buy the Abrams tanks. They looked awesome in Transformers." <http://bit.ly/18sbKz>

Wednesday 08 July

- 01:27am Installing windows 2000. No really. Have temperature, too. Not sure if the two are related.
- 02:28am "A public data set called the "Death Master File,"" Woahhh... <http://www.wired.com/wiredscience/2009/07/predictingssn/>
- 02:29am Forgot my manners - last tweet via **@jrep** and **@silona**

- 01:36pm A whole week of gloating about not catching the wife's cold has karma-zapped me. Have the cold, badly. No LRUG for me. Bah.
- 04:08pm Irish blasphemy - Arnold Wesker explains why blasphemy is a fundamental right: <http://newhumanist.org.uk/502> (via @NewHumanist)
- 05:15pm Thinking of building my own twitter client. Any useful open source ones to pivot off?
- 06:38pm "These findings ... suggest that "attention-grabbing" [formats] could impede the learning and retention of an ad." <http://tinyurl.com/mp5xdw>
- 06:43pm I find stupid surveys that say things like '25% of folk think TV is dumbed down' instead of '25% of folk *say* they think...' It matters.
- 08:04pm I wish someone would explain by what exact mechanism Cabinet Ministers' phones were 'hacked'.
- 08:30pm Angel Delight is "the best-selling line in the UK instant cold desserts sector". Well I never. <http://bit.ly/JA47p>
- 08:35pm "It is effectively a class system of access to information." <http://bit.ly/F5uXG> Wow, inspiring
- 09:17pm @kufena - start with spiders, then birds, then cats. Stop before you get to horses though.
- 10:33pm "Many of these devices are ... surgically implanted but very few (if any) have an in-built authentication system" <http://bit.ly/2QmSO>

Thursday 09 July

- 04:14pm @delineator - that would be the press card scheme run by the Metropolitan Police...
- 05:02pm "Blah blah... enlightenment... blah blah... print... blah blah... industrial revolution... blah blah... facebook' blog posts are daft.

Friday 10 July

- 03:53am "The London 2012 Open Weekend events listing will be available nearer to the Weekend" Hmm - 2 weeks. [#2012badomen](http://tinyurl.com/poyweg)

- 03:59am Hah! Apparently the London 2012 values are OPEN: Optimistic, Proud, Engaging and Now. (Struggled with the N there folks.).
- 02:07pm Bah, this cold stinks. Won't make it to *#newsinnovation*. Will be snotful and bleary instead.
- 02:10pm Hah! Apparently the London 2012 values are OPEN: Optimistic, Proud, Engaging and Now. Struggled with the N there, marketing f*wits?.
- 02:14pm "The potential applications of Java are quite diverse."
<http://www.euroyellowpages.com/exhibitn/javapps.html>
- 02:16pm **@david_a_black** Or Nautical - starting all the races with a cannon shot instead of a starting gun.
- 02:26pm I'm sorry olympic folks - you choose your values on the basis of the acronym they spell and *I'm* the cynical one?
- 02:45pm Time on site stats must be pretty meaningless - sometimes I have tabs open for days before reading and days again before they're closed.
- 06:10pm Sorry to go on about London 2012, but they're closing our local park, see, for nearly 6 months. And they keep saying they're all about OPEN.
- 06:53pm Comparing apples and oranges: <http://bit.ly/14ZfB3>
- 10:36pm This diatribe against the BBC rings very true to me about UK business in general: <http://bit.ly/1alBRB>

Saturday 11 July

- 05:25pm **@jodrell** - um... Englishman abroad. You should be drinking tea and complaining how it's not as good as back in blightly. Know you nothing?
- 05:57pm **@holysmoke** - "In South Wales, where the bilingual signs are basically lies - ie, pretending that people here speak Welsh." Indeed.
- 06:36pm Homeopathic A&E: <http://bit.ly/bA16D>
- 06:47pm Classroom backchannels? Kids using high-frequency ringtones that adults can't hear. Smart. <http://bit.ly/4afdDs>
- 07:50pm **@threedaymonk** - seen this? <http://bit.ly/quCPT>
- 07:52pm If photographic representations of public domain paintings can be copyrighted then the law is a complete ass. <http://tinyurl.com/luhc3u>

- 08:04pm **@threedaymonk** - am I wrong in thinking that database copyright is only 15 years?
- 08:05pm **@threedaymonk** - hmm. Yes I am.
- 08:07pm **@threedaymonk** - so a database of original work(s) is treated like any work; but a database of non-original works copyrighted for 15 years.
- 08:09pm **@threedaymonk** - actually before 1997, I think there were no restrictions. So 12 years. Maybe.
- 08:12pm **@threedaymonk** - pretty sure you could FOI historical database back-ups....

Sunday 12 July

- 06:14pm A product some 65 years after its time: <http://bit.ly/16kXGI>
- 08:22pm Motherlode for casual, web-based interactive fiction nuts: <http://parchment.toolness.com/>
- 09:43pm "The name alone speaks of gigantic tittishness." <http://bit.ly/a4p9O>
- 10:35pm **@oneplusi** - I get the economics, but what a miserly interpretation of their public mission by the NPG. They weren't created in that spirit.
- 10:37pm **@oneplusi** - and I think their stance pretty offensive to all those folks that bequeathed their works to the public through them.

Monday 13 July

- 01:04am Back up your twitter with greasemonkey - clever. <http://bit.ly/iktEk>
- 01:13am Help **@threedaymonk** distil the Daily Mail's tireless cancer research: <http://kill-or-cure.herokuapp.com/>
- 11:52am How dare you say the Daily Mail isn't a proper newspaper. With scoops like this? <http://bit.ly/fro6s> (via **@threedaymonk**)
- 12:05pm Thought this would be cool <http://tinyurl.com/kqtvu9> but then I realised it's just a poxy advert scam.

- 12:24pm WTF? Morgan Stanley has 15-year-old interns? <http://tinyurl.com/lmy79l> And, they think this child is 'in touch' with other children?
- 01:00pm @maccman - with your endorsement, I rest my case!
- 02:56pm Child got his first tooth poking through today! #babysteps
- 03:00pm "[T]he Olympic committee really doesn't give a stuff about Greenwich" <http://bit.ly/SIe24>
- 03:47pm .@stephenfry's speech might nudge the folks what rules into a better model of the dynamics of piracy than Digital Britain's naive one.
- 03:49pm All posts that start with a Carl Sagan quote are excellent. Fact. <http://bit.ly/615PR>
- 03:51pm Oh - apparently Carl Sagan was quoting someone else when he said this. How silly of me. 'The plural of anecdote is not data' is still true.
- 04:08pm "We're cynical because we don't trust fashionable words. They sound important, but..." <http://bit.ly/nsHDq> Excellent post.
- 04:23pm Wondering why those who think we shouldn't link to them without paying don't just go and form their own internet and leave ours alone.
- 04:25pm More proof that everything we know is eventually wrong: <http://www.fieggen.com/shoelace/ianknot.htm> (this time, how to tie shoelaces).
- 04:34pm Always interested in circadian rhythm research - especially when it justifies longer lies-in. <http://bit.ly/ip2YM>
- 07:31pm Carnivore? AWESOME <http://bit.ly/1aRIee> (via @oneplusi)
- 08:01pm I mean, it's welcome. But it's a bit odd that @channel4news have a FactCheck section. Don't they check the rest? <http://tinyurl.com/mezt2s>
- 08:30pm Why (US) government spends so much on software: <http://tinyurl.com/nhqd5t> Some parallels with UK, but not entirely transferable.

Tuesday 14 July

- 02:35am More police harrassment of photographers: <http://bit.ly/dpOzv>
- 03:38am Interesting - <http://straightstatistics.org/>

- 04:26am **@bengoldacre** - seen this? <http://kill-or-cure.herokuapp.com/>
Daily Mail cancer ontology.
- 03:25pm It's a mistake to think that the furore about 118-800 is mainly about privacy. It's about not wanting telesales calls from commercial scum.
- 03:28pm Telesales is among the most relevant form of advertising (we're in your area tomorrow!). Relevancy is not the answer to the ad-apocalypse.
- 07:49pm Trying to chase down references in Home Office documents. Want to bang some civil service head screaming 'hyperlink! hyperlink! hyperlink!'.
- 08:06pm Annoyed. Don't really believe the Home Office report, but can't access the papers because they don't exist or are in pay-for journals.
- 09:11pm Whenever I hear Windows Mobile Marketplace I think of a chip van or a car boot sale. Fair?

Wednesday 15 July

- 12:52am **@danlucraft** 'God, terminal and curses' sounds like an terrific night out.
- 12:54am Playing (!) with theatrical metaphors for software development. Is testing a bit like a rehearsal?
- 01:04am I always find I learn stuff reading the guardian's 'You ask, they answer' section. This week Cafedirect are answering.
- 01:37am Which incompetent IT lot advised the National Portrait Gallery that you could publish images on the web and technically prevent copying?
- 04:19pm "At £100k (salary) you might just have a reasonable house, a newish car and one foreign holiday a year." Why do I read 'have your say'?
- 04:49pm **@threedaymonk** - it's hard to tweet with broken fingers. Just saying, is all.
- 07:05pm "How did he get yoghurt on the back of his head?" Ahh, mealtime with the child. *#babysteps*
- 07:45pm I cringe everytime I hear someone say blog and meaning a blog post. As in 'see my latest blog'. I need to get a life.
- 07:50pm Wow. The bleakest, darkest horrors to be on the web are to be found here: <http://www.iviva.com/> Truly terrifying.

Thursday 16 July

- 12:37am I wish Bill Gates had just put the Feynman lectures on YouTube, and the movie files on a server somewhere.
- 01:01am **@threedaymonk** - "This video has been removed due to terms of use violation." I gather that happened today. Thanks Mr Gates.
- 01:04am **@threedaymonk** - But, hark what's this? <http://bit.ly/WnAg4> He he he
- 03:32am Didn't realise that Gates bought the Feynman lecture rights from the BBC (they're on Youtube anyway). Should have been on iPlayer.
- 03:44pm "The robot head probably isn't realistic enough to pass for a real-life Einstein" <http://bit.ly/JwG1f>

Friday 17 July

- 03:07pm Spot the difference: <http://bit.ly/WaVfC> (Guardian) <http://tinyurl.com/nnzuwb> (Telegraph). Did the Telegraph not know who the panellist was?
- 03:22pm Oh noes - some of the police are using witchcraft to get promotions. Or not. <http://bit.ly/17rvCn>
- 03:57pm All this talk about newspapers charging micropayments and the like misses completely that now readers want to link to news and share it.
- 04:19pm We've been trying to buy only stuff that will last. It's much more broadly difficult than avoiding Ikea: <http://bit.ly/WtU5R>

Saturday 18 July

- 07:23pm How long would I need to loiter with an RFID scanner in Heathrow to get the passport details of someone biometrically similar enough to me?
- 10:54pm Apropos the moon landings: 'any sufficiently arcane magic is indistinguishable from technology'.

Sunday 19 July

- 12:06am 'Faith-based' is the most curious of euphemisms. Is it used because religious <blank> is often completed by fanatic, war or nutter?
- 01:16am Truth behind Schwarzenegger: <http://bit.ly/e33EH> (How I wish this were true).
- 01:59am "His favourite prank was burying magnets at ... religious sites to excite compass-bearing explorers." Another thing that GPS steals from us.
- 02:21am What's odder: playing a text adventure game that I first owned as a VIC20 cartridge, or remembering exactly what to do at every stage?
- 03:36am I'm flabbergasted - should the BBC be publishing things like this, without comment or correction? <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/8156774.stm>
- 07:27am "Humans won't pay to watch dinosaurs ride motocross bikes forever." Hmm. Not sure. <http://bit.ly/G1zyP>
- 08:46am Had forgotten just how funny the <http://www.pretendoffice.co.uk> mailing lists are: <http://www.pretendoffice.co.uk/lists/everyone/>
- 09:03am Ahh. Memories of typing in BASIC code from magazines. <http://www.atariarchives.org/adventure/chapter20.php>
- 02:26pm Sigh, poor enviro-dilemma article from the Guardian: <http://bit.ly/ZAdoy> "Elongated till receipts"? Um. right.
- 04:19pm Hmm, Home secretary says 'swine flu worse than terrorism.' Which country shall we invade this time?
#perpetualwar
- 08:07pm Have now been ill for what seems like months. On the plus side, am allowed to wear my special malingering pyjamas.

Monday 20 July

- 02:21am Looking at **@threedaymonk**'s awesome <http://kill-or-cure.herokuapp.com/>, one wonders what reading the Mail every day would do to one's sanity.
- 03:51am " We need to transfer files from one computer to another and the only method we have is to use a floppy diskette as a ferry."

- 01:05pm Please BBC news, stop. No need for this: <http://tinyurl.com/ljmad4> "Apps as big if not bigger than the internet". WTF? In girth? Inside leg?
- 05:01pm I apologise, it's a link to a Daily Mail story. But it's a puzzle that maybe you can solve: <http://tinyurl.com/loog6u>
- 07:25pm The corpse-eating (copse?) robot story is excellent. <http://tinyurl.com/lmy78e> Sadly, the robot itself doesn't exist outside photoshop.
- 07:39pm This is a good counterpoint to data-driven business - the nonsense I used to pretend to believe. <http://tinyurl.com/mkp4qo> (via **@adriana872**)
- 07:53pm Interviewer: "Microsoft has gone to great lengths to engage the open source community." Um what? <http://tinyurl.com/m8szdw>
- 08:46pm "[S]tudents could perform ... none of the advanced tasks, which included copying and pasting items" <http://tinyurl.com/labzm7> We're doomed.
- 08:55pm "When I pass by Haw's small protest, I feel a great swell of pride". Yes, me too. <http://tinyurl.com/lruyqg> (via **@delineator**)

Tuesday 21 July

- 10:04am "MacPorts could be building SkyNet now for all I know. *#macports*" (via **@keibro**)

Wednesday 22 July

- 12:35am Bah - something broken in my head. Wanted to go out, chat, laugh, learn. Ended up arguing with people I don't want to argue with. Bah.
- 12:37am Still no Zappa on spotify. Improvising.
- 12:50am And Brown says this <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/technology/8161650.stm> shortly after passing a law limiting our photographing of the police.
- 03:47pm The government's misguided over-promotion of digital ownership is prompting some very odd, uncivic actions: <http://bit.ly/Y3frI>
- 04:15pm Matthew Taylor says TED Global is "'Britain's Got Talent' for rich hippies." <http://bit.ly/3pZcF4>

- 07:06pm Petition public-funded galleries to release collection photographs into the public domain: <http://petitions.number10.gov.uk/artphotos/>
- 07:40pm **@threedaymonk** - did you follow the landlord's instructions for payment? Yes? Then I think that's their problem. But. Oh. Hassle.
- 08:49pm The naive essayists opener, 'the Oxford English Dictionary defines...', has been replaced by 'According to Google/ wikipedia ... is ...'.
- 10:05pm Heh - illustrates neatly one of the reasons for my antipathy towards NoSQL: <http://bit.ly/16TpIw>
- 11:14pm Woah - chimp wins: <http://blip.tv/file/526690/>
- 11:25pm Open Source for America - <http://bit.ly/aizlQ>

Thursday 23 July

- 12:11am Awesome website - and much easier to find that the magic symbol menu: <http://coppypastecharacter.com/>
- 08:45pm Excited about iPhone Morse code apps - also, if they could be made ultrasonic, children could chat and broadcast without any adult knowing.
- 11:06pm Was it really a secret that Spinvox relied on human transcribers, that perfect voice-recognition with zero training doesn't exist?
- 11:15pm **@jodrell** - you plugged them both into the wall? Yep, intermittent wall fault. You'll probably need your house rebuilt.
- 11:29pm I dread surveys and being surveyed - I can never find it in myself to give a simple answer. And I'm the most opinionated person I know.

Friday 24 July

- 03:11pm "Would someone please give the AP the facepalm" <http://bit.ly/DIA2n>
- 05:21pm **@lazyatom** - um. me too. Barcode one?
- 05:22pm Pretty sure I can see **@delineator** using a spreadsheet. Shh. Don't tell anyone.

05:39pm @martinbtt - Gatecrasher's guilt - just popped my head in to see if it had finished yet.

Saturday 25 July

02:40pm Oh my word. The AP story keeps getting better. I wonder do they know this isn't possible: <http://www.ap.org/media/images/APnewsregistry.jpg>

03:35pm I wonder if the UK CIO writes his emails in Comic Sans, like his blog. <http://johnsuffolk.typepad.com/> (via @jeremygould)

10:50pm "Is your computer equipped with Powerpoint? Click to offline-read this article." Huh?

11:15pm UK music industry still losing money. Oh, wait. 4.7% growth in 2008? Surely some mistake. Aren't they going bust? <http://tinyurl.com/nqasa4>

Sunday 26 July

08:06pm I'm interested to hear what Douglas Rushkoff has to say about 'open source economies': <http://vimeo.com/4655092>

08:35pm Looking forward to the sky being filled with airships, dirigibles and zeppelins: <http://tinyurl.com/naezpb>

Monday 27 July

06:35pm Trying to save table at sceptics-in-the-pub but pub seat vultures circling...

Tuesday 28 July

12:47am @railsunder - arrived just as the session was finishing. But, of course, your snarkiness is appreciated and a great way to win friends.

07:59pm Teaching recursion - not so hard once you stop thinking procedurally and understand that all arrays are either [] or [array.shift, array].

08:00pm ... (approximately).

- 08:10pm Configuring my web proxy to stop me if I'm about to be sent to a Daily Mail page - I think they profit greatly from url shortening.
- 08:20pm **@jodrell** - helping someone on Skype who popped up with a question. Nothing professional.
- 08:54pm **@coupde** - per facepalm? <http://bit.ly/7IaDn>
- 08:55pm **@coupde** - more seriously, I imagine they're sold on the basis of the audited circulation figures. Which would make them per-view.

Wednesday 29 July

- 02:00am Just realised I haven't been in the "key advertiser-friendly 16- to 34-year-old demographic" for a while. Is that why I hate adverts now?
- 02:22am "Most modern browsers also provide a Web page composer." Uhoh - back in 1999.
- 02:44am "Look at this Fucking Graph. It's Fucking going Upwards" <http://bit.ly/CCwHP> Mischief with the AP's silly diagram.
- 06:02pm Ashamed at what the police are doing in London - another photographer stopped and searched. Do we have too many police? <http://bit.ly/2jarW1>
- 06:09pm I don't think I could explain to the satisfaction of any civilised person why I'm glad 4chan exists. <http://bit.ly/VVvHF> But I am.
- 06:29pm Yay! Video skype chat with the child and wife. It's so quiet here without them.
- 09:14pm Failing to explain why recursion is important - part of the point is that code ends up structured similarly to the data it processes.
- 09:53pm For once I agree with the BBC's use of quotes in this headline: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/england/somerset/8175347.stm> (via **@robertbrook**)

Thursday 30 July

- 09:11am Almost every tv series would be better if set in a post-apocalyptic world with zombies and werewolves and things.

- 09:37pm Back home after full day's hacking at the Guardian.
Another couple of hours to do, then sleep. *#ghack2*
- 11:22pm Enjoying playing with Freebase - now have comprehensive
list of all the actors that starred alongside Charlton Heston
and who are also dead.
- 11:25pm Wondering if there'll be a 'Sixth Sense' twist to my day of
hacking, when the final API call reveals I'm actually dead
too. *#ghack2*

Friday 31 July

- 09:08am Heading back to Guardian - commencing battle with train
company. *#ghack2*
- 09:13am Reliable reports from the wife that the child can now pull
himself up on things and stand unassisted. *#babysteps*

August

Saturday 01 August

- 02:30am Night bus!!!!
- 02:06pm Tired after guardian hack day and dead (!) pleased that I won the Dark and Twisty award. *#ghack2* <http://bit.ly/73Tms> Thanks to all involved.
- 07:32pm "We need something like whales, but infinitely more abundant." <http://www.theyesmen.org/hijinks/vivoleum> Genius.
- 07:38pm This makes me sad and angry: <http://bit.ly/11CDQ0> (Although with a name like Jonny Scaramanga, the kid mentioned is destined for greatness).

Sunday 02 August

- 04:20pm **@jodrell** - are you playing CSI again? <http://tinyurl.com/lymdk8>
- 04:27pm The Goldman Sachs profits are terrifying. But GS employees keep "half of the profit" they make. Almost socialist. <http://tinyurl.com/mmzxyu>
- 04:31pm Or in other words. Banks aren't picky about who they screw - shareholders, customers, whole countries' economies. <http://tinyurl.com/mmzxyu>
- 05:52pm Was thinking about enabling SMS delivery for my twitter messages but then realised I don't know my phone number. Ho hum.
- 06:16pm When journalists say 'world-wide pandemic' do they just mean 'pandemic'?
- 07:56pm Cruel pizza leaflet: 'Home alone? No-one need know you ordered two mega-size pizzas...'
- 08:00pm "To this end we have kidnapped your potted bay tree from one of your homes." <http://bit.ly/KCcp>
- 08:32pm "I like the Times... [b]ut sadly its most vocal readers are clearly educationally sub-normal." First comment: <http://bit.ly/CTq0U>

Monday 03 August

- 02:15am Still trying to explain the why of recursion. Latest attempt. <http://gist.github.com/160273>
- 04:42am In 10 years, everyone will have their own satellite. <http://tinyurl.com/mtpt93>
- 03:42pm Good Lord - what is wrong with these people: <http://tinyurl.com/lm9qvv> 4 years for a 7 month project; 5.5 times over budget (via @jaggeree).

Tuesday 04 August

- 01:52am "This is why God invented computers. Let's build a web scraper." <http://bit.ly/2yAi5>
- 11:35pm @threedaymonk - Moon showing at the Greenwich Picturehouse. Going to the parents and babies showing tomorrow - hope the child enjoys it.

Wednesday 05 August

- 02:43am Apple ban a dictionary app for having rude words: despite having to already know the word to look it up. Not buying any more apps now. Done.
- 02:53pm Dear web-publishers, please try switching off your web-analytics for a day - pages will load much quicker and you'll get more traffic. Thx.
- 02:54pm @cherkoff - perhaps to Texas?
- 04:07pm @cherkoff - weren't they going to secede from the Union? <http://www.texassecede.com/>
- 04:18pm I reckon they mean The Cut street not the Cut bar. We'll see. But a BBC 'google it' failure, methinks: <http://bit.ly/NQuWe>
- 08:27pm Oh look - as predicted, BBC article changed: <http://tinyurl.com/lgo3fu> No apology to those, like us, with relatives working in The Cut Bar.
- 08:34pm A bit of humility would go a long way to fix BBC news - 'Earlier we said ... , we're sorry, we were mistaken.'
- 09:35pm Child's new favourite toy - which he won't put down, even when crawling towards shiny, forbidden things - is a green bath sponge. #babysteps

- 10:05pm I'd bet this blog post was written in Word. I haven't read it, but I hate Word's header/subheader/bullets style <http://tinyurl.com/265d3l>
- 10:37pm **@oneplusi** - you actually read it? I thought that Word documents looked like Word documents so that you knew which ones to ignore.
- 10:39pm **@oneplusi** - and it's a matter of much lamentation and wailing that kids now think that essays look like that. All headings and bullets.

Thursday 06 August

- 01:56am "Python doesn't demand this ... but it's exceptionally helpful if you name your classes starting with the word Class". By Odin's beard, No!
- 09:10pm Wouldn't it be good if the Daily Mail gave a free clone of Alan Johnson's ID card with every copy? <http://bit.ly/43HBLQ> (dailymail link)
- 10:01pm This birther lot are just ridiculous. I'm sure that in 1961 there was a shady cabal manipulating Hawaiian newspaper births pages. Oh yes.
- 11:06pm Wow - this is a surprisingly accurate software project estimation tool: <http://www.czn.com/6to8weeks/index.php> (via **@chrismear**)
- 11:22pm Every time I light our kitchen grill it vapourises all the hairs on my arm, and occasionally my eyebrows. Think we might need a new cooker.

Friday 07 August

- 10:10pm I don't believe this cloning of ID cards business unless a) public-key crypto is now broken or b) card readers don't check the signature.
- 10:19pm A-ha! This article says that there's a way of fooling readers into not checking the card's signature. <http://tinyurl.com/lu7w7s> Muppets.
- 10:32pm I wonder how many Home Affairs journos understand public key cryptography well enough to explain how ID cards can detect data modifications.

10:35pm (Not having a go at journos, it's just that the ID card story is looking to have strong technology as well as policy elements)

Saturday 08 August

03:20am If you're building an ID system based on a PKI, don't lose the root certificate: <http://bit.ly/j1AAf> And don't 'do without a back-up'.

08:31pm Child has been saying Mommommommom and occasionally Dadada today. (Although evidence suggests that both mean 'more food please') *#babysteps*

Sunday 09 August

07:52pm **@threedaymonk** - not Adrian Chiles? Off of the telly? Does he smoke then?

07:55pm I think it's rather odd that Texas has an official dinosaur - BRACHIOSAUR SAUROPOD, PLEUROCOELUS, since you asked. <http://tinyurl.com/me5a82>

Monday 10 August

05:05pm Is the BBC news site bound by the PCC code of practice? Anyone? If not, why not?

07:18pm Have nearly taught the child to say bumbumbumbum. Today, he's been copying our sounds. *#babysteps*

07:41pm The problem I found with java is the idiot horde who would and will argue against this kind of excellent advice: <http://tinyurl.com/ksexeh>

08:58pm It's tricky when characters in novels have the same name as people you know in real-life. Worse when their fictional selves seem more real.

11:33pm Oh boy - just heard that friendfeed has gone to the dark side. Should I try Jaiku now?

Tuesday 11 August

- 03:54am New tech, measured by old. "This all fits into a box the size of three cassette tapes." <http://tinyurl.com/lptrk3>
- 03:17pm Was pretty sure that my guardian hack was in such poor taste I wouldn't make the highlights reel. <http://bit.ly/7oKwf> No such luck...
- 03:41pm **@currybet** - Um. 'Bang bang' was the first single I ever bought. Is that where it all started to go wrong?

Wednesday 12 August

- 05:44pm Dear internet people, the email I sent you wasn't jargon-filled. You don't have enough knowledge to do your jobs. How to say that politely?
- 05:47pm Slightly worried that an internet hosting company have never heard of scp and are telling me that ftp is secure because it's not online.

Thursday 13 August

- 12:12am West India Quay.
- 12:15am Mudchute is is the best-named station in London.
- 12:57am Dear **@guswilson**, if I was looking for hosting, I'd have asked folks I trust. One of them? No? Just a spammer eh? Same for you **@jennylauffer**.
- 01:00am <http://tweetingtoohard.com/> Sorry, **@maccman**, but it is deserved.
- 01:07am Read this: <http://tinyurl.com/nb6qrg> The Silverlight stuff makes me want to vomit. But not supporting IE6, while asking everyone else to...
- 02:02am Sigh - this kind of half-arsed analysis will be taken seriously by someone: <http://tinyurl.com/ks59eh>

Friday 14 August

- 11:40pm Seems likely these are the lead-mines that my ancestors left Cornwall to work, and from where they left for South Wales. <http://bit.ly/seTLr>

- 11:50pm Just want to see a historical map of bristol - don't want to buy one. Damn you Ordnance Survey.
- 11:55pm @dracos - ooh interesting... But looking for one of 1870s Bristol...

Sunday 16 August

- 10:40pm "Based on the rampaging exploits of a disassociated Pooh bear". <http://blog.niceproduce.com/?p=5316>

Tuesday 18 August

- 01:50am "The page isn't designed for readers; it's designed to placate [internal] power centers" Most websites are like this... <http://bit.ly/gvGab>
- 09:17pm Reading that the financial system's cumulative losses in 2007/8 are likely larger than the all the cumulative gains they've ever made. Ever.

Wednesday 19 August

- 09:05pm If this train were any hotter the windows would melt. Oh wait, windows melting.

Thursday 20 August

- 12:39am If Batman was an eco-warrior vigilante, he'd probably drive one of these: <http://40fires.org/>
- 08:00am Oops. Have failed to sleep again.
- 12:52pm Devouring emergency packet of Quavers.
- 03:23pm The London Paper is to close! Yes. Victory for anyone who feels we should be able to walk unobstructed by the fear-peddling street-hawkers.
- 03:52pm Had no idea that you had to pay VAT on carbon credits - like taxing the taxing of air. <http://bit.ly/JQcKD>
- 03:55pm So this is a chunk of the futuretek we were promised as kids. Surprised I'm not more excited by it: <http://bit.ly/1NOqg>

- 03:58pm Addendum: how can a PR fuckwit describe a phone watch as 'highly original'. Hello, Dick Tracy? <http://bit.ly/6RlSD>
- 04:06pm **@threedaymonk** - watched a TV programme about using short people to make film sets look larger, big-handed people to advertise watches, etc.
- 05:26pm Child is nine months old today. His official longer-out-than-in birthday. *#babysteps*
- 08:25pm Thinking of reading all of Y: The Last Man again. I know some people didn't like it, but I enjoyed it. Muchly.
- 10:25pm Coco Pops are a proper man's late night snack. Don't know why they market it to monkeys.

Friday 21 August

- 02:58am Some test data accidentally got on to Sears' site <http://bit.ly/dV7J0> then, reddit censored the story and admitted it: <http://bit.ly/3sXQ5q>
- 04:15pm Wow. My hair may be my antenna after all - <http://www.rapha.com/testingmethod.htm>

Saturday 22 August

- 12:02am I'm impressed with what the Pirate Party UK are up to so far. Their forums are hosting real discussion. Who'd have thought it?

Sunday 23 August

- 12:36am Back home after *#yrs* only to find wife has left big mound of chilli for me to nomnomnomnomnomnom.
- 12:52am **@david_a_black** - <http://www.grahamrawle.com/lostconsonants/index.html> (Lost consonants)
- 12:59am **@david_a_black** - oh yes. I appear to be suffering from preposition blindness. Missed the 'for' in your tweet.
- 02:29pm Am now measuring my food intake by metres of Curly Wurly consumed. *#youngrewiredstate*
- 05:06pm Frighteningly good presentations, websites, mischief and magic from the amazing yoofs at *#youngrewiredstate*

- 05:08pm What makes me laugh is that when the presenters at *#youngrewiredstate* say they don't use macs, they mean they use linux.
- 05:24pm Well-aimed criticism of the web-junk produced by M \$FT tools. One of the groups I was mentoring had similar challenges. *#youngrewiredstate*
- 10:18pm Really proud to have worked with amazing young folks at *#youngrewiredstate* Hope they'll forgive me pushing sed, awk, grep and selenium.
- 11:05pm While I remember.. how not to judge: make some for-the-crowd comment about gender balance at an event as if you're the only one that cared.
- 11:06pm How not to judge: make some for-the-crowd comment about gender balance at an event as if you're the only one that cares. *#youngrewiredstate*
- 11:18pm We didn't even bother trying to get an API key for transportdirect <http://tinyurl.com/mb7fee> *#youngrewiredstate* Open this API for all, now.
- 11:21pm Making people sign up for an API key to access government data is silly cargo-culting. For no-one. Digital jobsworths. Stop doing that, now.
- 11:24pm Making us sign up for an API key to access government data is silly cargo-culting. *#youngrewiredstate* Digital jobsworths, stop doing this!
- 11:26pm Second rule of judging: don't make silly comments about public sector pay and, ooh, how hard your life must be. *#youngrewiredstate*

Monday 24 August

- 01:36am Yes! "Our unhealthy obsession with XML formats threatens to slow or impede many open data projects" <http://bit.ly/bnFhf> Good article.

Tuesday 25 August

- 03:19pm I might buy, subsidise and mail a 3G dongle to anyone who gets their internet cut off by this terrible government bullying tripe.

Wednesday 26 August

12:29am RT **@bscofield** Wow. Just... wow. Compare: <http://bit.ly/15KCdZ> and <http://bit.ly/1lTZbm> - can you spot the difference?

Thursday 27 August

08:20pm Cot moved. Child sleeping in his own bedroom tonight. Parents nervous. Child doesn't seem to mind. *#babysteps*

Friday 28 August

01:22am "F-Script is a Smalltalk dialect" <http://www.fscript.org/documentation/WelcomeToFScript2/index.htm>

01:17pm "More outlandish "scientific facts" were waiting for me at the gibbon enclosure." <http://newhumanist.org.uk/2125>

02:50pm Interesting, non-legal test of the GPL's power to open source code by FFmpeg: <http://ffmpeg.org/shame.html>

02:51pm **@mattmcalister** - best wishes to whole family. Congratulations.

02:54pm Fighting for the right to scare children with images of eternal damnation. <http://bit.ly/8B0Bc> I bet that Jesus chap is proud of them.

04:33pm Am hearing that house prices are rising again - still convinced they haven't fallen far enough to shock the market back into sense.

Saturday 29 August

03:03pm Business Guys on Business Trips. If only it weren't true: <http://businessguysonbusinesstrips.com/art/consistency.jpg>

07:20pm How many hours of my life were wasted in meetings like this? <http://businessguysonbusinesstrips.com/art/expose.jpg>

Monday 31 August

01:53am In praise of ... the Observer picking long words to be in
praise of and then misspelling them in the headline. [http://
tinyurl.com/m49mp9](http://tinyurl.com/m49mp9)

08:38pm **@robertbrook** - bah. flowers. What's the national
dinosaur? That's the question. <http://bit.ly/oH7EY>

September

Wednesday 02 September

- 12:31am **@threedaymonk** I think it's largely Stockholm syndrome at work.
- 03:16am Editorial balls-up of the year: <http://tinyurl.com/l86z24> (reported in the guardian, of all places).
- 03:33am How dare you suggest the Telegraph is chasing search traffic with celeb stories... <http://tinyurl.com/m285kz> (funny Churchill mention too).

Thursday 03 September

- 02:46pm Using pigeons for strategic advantage: <http://bit.ly/PolSL> (new blog post from me).
- 03:08pm The FT's website seems to be designed so that once you leave the homepage it feels like you're in 1999, while the homepage is all web2.0.
- 03:45pm After a long yacht vacation, "Tony Blair [concludes] that materialism and individualism are destructive forces"
<http://tinyurl.com/lbvrar>
- 03:55pm McKinsey only finds savings for NHS of ~4% through productivity improvement, and cuts. Story should be NHS is already very efficient.
- 07:11pm £500,000 computer virus loss at Ealing council. Staff using memory stick to do... what I wonder? <http://tinyurl.com/lzzf6d>

Friday 04 September

- 04:53am "Much of the "Linked Data" crowd has yet to digest this lesson fully." (Please someone save us from RDF). <http://tinyurl.com/lg4vtm>
- 05:00am I have two problems with RDF/linked data (based on past experience). It's a technology for generating a) meetings and b) false conclusions.
- 06:13am This touches on a lot of my current linked data worries:
<http://bit.ly/2Q2Q8C>

- 07:56am Reading that Microsoft's huge R&D spend shows it's innovative. Actually, it's how you'd expect a monopoly to force up everyone's R&D costs.
- 10:16am "Applicants must have programming knowledge of scripting languages such as Perl, Python, Ajax or PHP" Ajax? sigh.
- 12:06pm I wish people would not equate technical debt with poor quality: <http://bit.ly/N5dKi> Or at least qualify it like 'sub-prime technical debt'
- 12:39pm Came across this poem again - still makes me smile:
<http://www.redhousebooks.com/galleries/freePoems/allWatchedOver.htm> (right now, please!)
- 01:52pm **@threedaymonk** - don't forget all that oxidised hydrogen.
- 02:39pm Noooo! Aha's 'The Sun always shines on TV' is playing over and over and over again in my head. Please make it stop.
- 03:16pm **@jodrell** - I hate you. Now, I have fraggles singing 'the sun always shines on TV' in my head. With Fulton Mackay on backing vocals.
- 07:56pm **@threedaymonk** - your mission, should you choose to accept it, is to become a community leader and lead the people of Rotherhithe to glory.
- 09:27pm "I should also mention that I do not believe their diagnosis was correct." <http://bit.ly/2JJGEz>

Saturday 05 September

- 01:02pm **@memespring** - API keys for public data. SOAP. Libraries provided that just don't work.
- 03:04pm Finally we learn again that all the numbers in the 'we must control the internet' debate are nonsense: <http://bit.ly/2synvo> *#digitalbritain*
- 03:13pm Although, I should be clear: the reason the numbers are nonsense is the poor question, not the (reasonable) extrapolation from a sample...
- 03:22pm Have had the Snow Leopard upgrade DVD for a week now, and haven't upgraded. This is not like me.
- 07:10pm One for **@threedaymonk** and his Chili taste: <http://bit.ly/ViDwk>

08:53pm "WARNING: this product warps space and time in its vicinity." and other scientific product labels. <http://tinyurl.com/nkjzy2>

Sunday 06 September

07:08pm "There's nothing wrong with this ceiling", I tell the wife as my finger goes through it and rubble falls on my head. Hmm. I might be wrong.

07:24pm Things that would make me proud to be British #29: uk universities get together and created a free resource like MIT opencourseware.

Monday 07 September

12:24am Just noticed that requiem 1.8.12 (DRM stripper for Apple iTunes DRM) has been released (Mac only at the moment).

07:28pm " It's a bit like Rolex claiming lost revenues because people are buying rip-off Rolexes for \$25." Yes! <http://tinyurl.com/kur8hy>

Tuesday 08 September

04:51pm Funny how the entire media has become involved in marketing Beatles Rock Band, while pretending that they're not involved in marketing BRB.

04:55pm I'm guessing that parents want their children not to have the most popular names. Why, then, is this so stable? <http://bit.ly/sOgZZ>

08:19pm "[T]he truth is all potato dishes have a different name." Thanks wikipedia. <http://bit.ly/1l3XP>

08:40pm Dear companies - calling yourself "team [company-name]" doesn't make you sound more dynamic, it makes you sound a bit silly.

08:47pm Richard Littlejohn hates single mothers, especially if they're dogs: <http://tinyurl.com/levx32> F***ing muppet.

09:23pm "But the end of this is bedlam." Seems like Bertrand Russell thought salespeople verminous wasters too: <http://tinyurl.com/nkz8hh>

Wednesday 09 September

- 12:19am Used to visit sourceforge all the time - rare these days, when did they change the theme to 'icy and amateurish'?
- 03:32pm Cybertramps or 'charity hacking'... you decide. <http://www.webticketing.net/charityhack/>
- 06:07pm Cambridge much the same as I remember. It has a particular September smell.
- 10:33pm Heading back to the Big Smoke from Cambridge - thinking I should come back soon.
- 10:43pm On the plus side: I can still hear on one side. On the other side: pretty sure that I did seriously damage my other ear drum last night.
- 10:51pm Finding train LED display saying "the next station is Baldock" strangely threatening.

Thursday 10 September

- 12:41am I wish people would stop saying 'SEO is a multi-billion dollar business' when they mean paying to get more traffic than you deserve is...
- 12:42am Or rather, Google doesn't really have the power in that relationship. You do. But you choose to pretend that Google is hurting you. Boo hoo.
- 01:09am **@currybet** The good beer guide is a better example - if you have good beer, we'll consider you. But, if you don't, don't complain if we don't
- 01:11am **@currybet** - poorly written response (have been drinking good beer), but hope you could get my gist.
- 01:40am Want to buy two ipod nanos, tape them to my eyes and set them both to cyborg - wonder if they'll scroll 6502 assembler code like terminator.
- 02:05am BBC news 24 captions on Obama: 'we can replace acromony with civility' - hmm. What's acromony?
- 05:40pm Doctor confirms that I did indeed perforate my eardrum, but was also very nice and didn't tell me how stupid he thought I was.
- 07:26pm **@lukeredpath** - you know when they tell you not to stick things in your ears as a child. Turns out the advice is good for adults too...

07:51pm Things found on the new £2.8m Birmingham City website... <http://birminghamgovuk.tumblr.com/>

Friday 11 September

- 01:22am I'm definitely moving from WordPress: <http://core.trac.wordpress.org/changeset/11762> Security holes directly stem from poor coding practice.
- 09:08pm This Google yo-yo I nabbed from their offices is rubbish. Wish Google had some more competition in the 'tat with our name on it' market.
- 09:52pm **@mrpatto** - but doesn't it only work with a Microsoft finger, on a Microsoft hand, on a Microsoft arm, on a
- 10:44pm "We know the Derren Brown thing was a trick is because otherwise he'd just play the lottery and win every week." Moron.
- 11:28pm No Brain Scientists! Don't listen to the squid! <http://bit.ly/2l3rL> (Nice headline)

Saturday 12 September

- 03:05am Child's two big top teeth seemed very prominent today. Makes him look older. Again. *#babysteps*
- 03:08am iPhone sync screens in iTunes 9 seem very inelegant to me - look at all those colons in the headers. Not very apple-like.
- 03:20am Middle Ages tech support: <http://digs.by/HjO>
- 08:37am Taking my one good ear to *#interesting09*
- 08:43am On Saturday morning trains, no-one is sure whether to deploy their commuter or their weekend selves.
- 09:38pm Randomly drifting home... seems appropriate after **@interesting**
- 09:49pm Favourite **@interesting** moment was from **@robertbrook**: "I do martial arts. Don't worry, you're in no danger: I'm not very good."
- 09:57pm Second favourite **@interesting** moment from Dan (?) : "my house is full of jugs. I hate jugs. Maybe I should talk to someone about this."

- 10:42pm So, while I was out, living it large at **@interesting**, the child stood up on his own for the first time. *#babysteps*
- 10:45pm "Most of the planning was done from the top deck of a London double-decker bus on the way to work" <http://tinyurl.com/r6unv2>
- 10:54pm No... no... no... <http://tinyurl.com/pqsm5yh> Right now, Ghosthunting with the Happy Mondays. No...

Sunday 13 September

- 10:13pm Five hours this story sat on the BBC news website before correction. It's just not good enough: <http://bit.ly/k78F5> (via **@threedaymonk**).
- 10:39pm People singing Wikipedia articles accompanied on ukulele <http://www.ukepedia.com>
- 11:10pm My first impressions of Snow Leopard are that it's much the same, but a few of those cryptic swirly arrow iPhone icons have crept in.

Monday 14 September

- 03:04pm Are we really going to bail out tax havens? <http://bit.ly/tZAXy>
- 04:40pm Today is officially nosebleed day for me. Wonder if I'm being particularly more psychic than usual: <http://bit.ly/KadbW>

Tuesday 15 September

- 12:55am Trying to buy particular exercise books online has turned into a quixotic quest through the arse-end of ecommerce. <http://tinyurl.com/plh25h>
- 10:44pm Can't tell if my CV is a forthright and proud list of my achievements or if it makes me sound like an arse. Or both. Or neither. Hmm...

Wednesday 16 September

- 01:08am <http://bit.ly/4n1VE7> Step-by-step we've arrived at this scary place.
- 01:21pm **@threedaymonk** I can't understand why anyone would hate Cobol and love Rails. Oh... wait...
- 03:27pm Adobe buys Omniture - presumably so the marketing pigs can now count all the flash ad-bominations they shove at us. Adblock FTW.
- 04:11pm **@threedaymonk** I used to give advertisers more credit than they deserved. Now I think they should be sterilised for the social good.
- 04:15pm **@threedaymonk** - and two books were influential: "Culture Jam" and "Consumer Kids".
- 04:20pm Another way of putting it is that the inefficiencies of old media prevented advertiser-domination of editorial, the web has screwed that up.
- 04:30pm Our microwave is broken - last one lasted 10+ years (and was replaced because the platter went missing in house move), this one 9 months.
- 05:04pm "Do you need our facebook profile management service? Doesn't everyone?" Um. No. Not me. F***tards.
- 05:22pm Horrible irony in today's job market - the less commercial a job you want (government, academia, etc.) the more likely you'll be using .NET.
- 07:13pm I have 1337 unread emails - oh yes.
- 07:57pm This whole 'nudge, nudge' approach to cycling turns out to be expensive Tory floppery. Didn't we predict that? <http://tinyurl.com/re3mcy>

Thursday 17 September

- 01:25pm "Shall we schedule a meeting, you know, to make sure all the boxes are ticked?" Hmm, no-one mentioned any boxes. Shall I just nod? Ok.
- 01:27pm Retail sales at 1989 levels. 1989 was a good year, wake me when we reach the seventies.
- 04:44pm Richmond. Lots of posh kids saying "oh yah. Polo. Oh yah."

- 04:46pm Wife hysterical: the child took two steps. I call that walking! *#babysteps*
- 07:34pm **@floehopper** - thanks. Hopefully it's something exciting like I've been hacked. Not just a server failure.
- 07:36pm **@floehopper** - bah. Something dull. <http://bit.ly/FHPwK>
- 07:44pm "Burn giant wooden men or kill goats. It's up to you". Only one of 40 things **@chrisroos** learnt at **@interesting** <http://tinyurl.com/lodwba>
- 10:27pm The Mail's online cesspit was bound to be heading here: <http://tinyurl.com/pr8lzc> That's what happens if you court filth.
- 10:34pm Confused. <http://bit.ly/hms9q> I thought she died in a car crash. Axing is very Tudor though.

Friday 18 September

- 01:05am "When you fire up Pharo you won't be greeted with the psychotic colours of Squeak." Thank-you! <http://www.pharo-project.org/about>
- 01:05am Oops - actually quotation came from here: <http://bit.ly/45F5Kl>
- 04:13pm **@threedaymonk** - hmm. Would subscribe to a service that automatically drew cocks on the avatars of entrepreneurs.
- 04:14pm (Or rather on people who describe themselves as 'entrepreneurs'. Nothing against the truly useful builders of stuff.)
- 04:20pm Ah **@chrisroos** - I marvel at what the people who didn't see my original tweet and now think I have an awesome cock thing up my sleeve.
- 05:51pm **@oneplusi** - I heard that 1,2,3,4,5,6 is the most common combination chosen - the old probability double-bluff. Now 1,2,3,5,8,13...
- 07:20pm **@thebigshakuna** I did. It doesn't work :(
- 07:25pm If they ban him, he will become more powerful than they can possibly imagine: <http://tinyurl.com/kmd8xg>
- 07:32pm **@threedaymonk** - or to cut a long story short, now he shops at asda. Dark side indeed.
- 07:41pm "Hello, Kevin Rudd. We are Anonymous. We have been watching you." <http://tinyurl.com/njq55>

- 10:58pm Can't make up my mind whether this latest campaign from Dixons is grubby, clever, or just a bit desperate. All 3? <http://tinyurl.com/npza2y>
- 11:05pm Find Spotify really annoying - about 20% of music I like just isn't on there and the UI sucks. Oh well. The 80% is good.
- 11:07pm "All the punks are going to scream yippee / 'cos it's the thing that only eats hippies" <http://open.spotify.com/track/2pDDqIpbADxBkBxyLJnsFp>
- 11:18pm Has anyone made a mobile phone version of these - you know, for kids? <http://tinyurl.com/mtjfn3> (I liked them muchly when I were lad).
- 11:54pm I'd never read Alan Kay's original Dynabook paper, here it is: <http://www.mprove.de/diplom/gui/Kay72a.pdf>

Saturday 19 September

- 12:00am Also from Alan Kay's 1972 (!) paper: "One can imagine one of the first programs an owner will write is a filter to eliminate advertising!".
- 04:35pm Only a geek could find this funny: <http://bit.ly/rhP1> (Did you mean:...)
- 05:00pm BBC Domesday project - what happened to all that work, all that magic: <http://bit.ly/7y5tF>
- 07:43pm These meet all my criteria for cool hackery: OLPC viewfinders made on Reprap: <http://bit.ly/RzSvC>
- 08:34pm Wish I'd thought of this: <http://tinyurl.com/lrvlyq>
- 08:36pm **@infovore** - saw you at a distance at London Bridge today (I think). Would have screamed HAPPY BIRRRTHDAAY if I'd known.
- 11:21pm New nostalgic blog post: <http://bit.ly/328gaC> Smalltalk, HotJava, Vic 20s and tinkering.

Sunday 20 September

- 12:38am This is how I want my operating system to work. View source on everything. Change source on everything: <http://tinyurl.com/ny3bpx>

- 04:53am **@SergeStinckwich** Of course! But the ideals it embodies are now at the margins of the tech world, I think. That's not good.
- 02:52pm Reading that beards are a sign of an unbalanced mind, and we know that because the murderous Vikings have beards. Makes sense.
- 02:57pm I've always been confused by sewing machines and their seeming topological impossibility. All sorted now: <http://bit.ly/2oxHEF>
- 03:12pm Hmm. I don't really believe anything I read in the Telegraph any more. But this story deserves further research: <http://bit.ly/3fjO3i>
- 11:45pm Computers today are just shit. Folder full of movies, can I tell how many minutes of footage in total? No. Rubbish.

Monday 21 September

- 12:22am Wading through more Apple/iTunes swamps. Have videos, want to put on iPhone, why the fuck can't I just mount it and copy them across?
- 12:33am My default font size in TextMate is 40pt. Is that weird? It works for me.
- 01:39pm Icebreaking questions that I fear: 'So... did you see the match?', 'So... what do you drive?', 'So... what do you do?'. Normal people, eh?
- 01:54pm "Archie enjoys learning and achieving. He is not at all nerdy" <http://bit.ly/38wdMZ>
- 02:00pm Daily Mail has a rare moment of introspection: <http://twitpic.com/ikqa8> (via **@bellamack**, **@bengoldacre**)
- 02:10pm **@threedaymonk** **@rlivesy** - or a train route?
- 02:15pm "Every postman knows these figures are false." <http://bit.ly/11Q1aq> Interesting diary from inside the Royal Mail.
- 02:31pm First real program I wrote was an editor for Elite save files. Elite owes me at least eight months of my childhood. <http://bit.ly/VOKOp>
- 02:37pm "Cliff Richard has - I know this for a fact - had to start turning his underpants inside out" <http://bit.ly/22bYYE> Great article.
- 02:55pm Just when I thought that it couldn't get any odder - Iggy Pop in Lego Rock Band: <http://bit.ly/49vKTO>

- 07:27pm <http://yfrog.com/4q8kgp> @robertbrook - actually since I've upgraded to Snow Leopard, I'm using 36pt. I encourage you to try it.
- 08:03pm "Any sentence containing the word "intermeddling" is of course wonderful." Indeed, and it's about lasers. <http://tinyurl.com/mg8gej>

Tuesday 22 September

- 03:37am Why on earth did the editors at O'Reilly let Crockford start every chapter of "Javascript: The Good Parts" with a googled Shakespeare quote?
- 03:39am Surprisingly, Shakespeare didn't mention regular expressions, but he did use the word 'match' in the well-known Henry VI part 1.
- 12:14pm You just can't trust these figures - a spike for Patrick Swayze but not for Michael Jackson? <http://tinyurl.com/n4fy6e> Piffle and nonsense.
- 05:27pm Grandparents have taken child out for a walk - we are alone. This is a little odd.
- 05:30pm @lazyatom - <http://bit.ly/FQpeg> (for reading while you wait).
- 11:46pm "Talk to eighteen-year-olds about the Godfather and they go 'fucking load of bollocks'" <http://bit.ly/OF1CB>

Wednesday 23 September

- 01:56pm Dear business man sitting next to me, please stop banging your laptop to Bob Marley's Exodus like a bongo drum. Oh, you're from Ofcom...
- 02:07pm "The label [Scrotum humanum] was not considered to be a proper Linnaean "name" for the animal in question." <http://bit.ly/16leSJ>
- 02:23pm "Cope donated his skull to science ... hoping that [the size of] his brain would be larger than that of his adversary" <http://bit.ly/2TTp04>
- 02:28pm This story should be made into a film starring Arnold Schwarzenegger and Sly Stallone: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bone_Wars

- 02:42pm "While Michael Crichton's death has been a positive step, Dan Brown remains very much alive." <http://bit.ly/norAU>
- 03:45pm Off to see Inherit the Wind in the Old Vic tonight. Pretty excited. Child being babysat by the grandparents.

Thursday 24 September

- 11:16pm Editing home videos. Adding background music. One day the child will ask me why all his videos have Kraftwerk soundtracks.
- 11:26pm I remain convinced that royalties are just a mechanism for the music industry to shift the risk on to musicians. <http://tinyurl.com/y8clx9d>
- 11:43pm No, I linked to it as an example of romanticising royalties. All that I see is that musicians weren't paid enough in the first place.

Friday 25 September

- 02:04am Ooh - <http://www.monkeyanalytics.com/>
- 03:31am Every time I put videos on flickr, the thumbnail it picks is not at all helpful - usually in the middle of some transition. No-one cares.
- 02:33pm "We've been clobbered completely by vendor lock-in." How the fuck did you not see it coming? <http://tinyurl.com/y8buxex>
- 02:44pm "If a school sets up a [Linux] network ... it will have to pay Microsoft ... licence fees for each Linux PC." <http://tinyurl.com/yee7h74>
- 04:50pm Perhaps I shouldn't admit this, but I really like the Snow Leopard Automator Service stuff. Much better than the last time I looked.
- 07:17pm We're pretty sure the child can say 'ball', 'water' and 'daddy'. He's working on 'banana' and 'mummy'. *#babysteps*
- 07:38pm Who were the company directors who allowed this, and are they now banned from being directors? <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/8275626.stm>
- 08:21pm GPL victory in France: <http://www.itwire.com/content/view/28000/1090/>

Saturday 26 September

- 03:12am "OpenID+OAuth hybrid onboarding" Hmm. Catchy name.
- 01:21pm Covering child with suncream before epic trip to the Apple Store...
- 07:04pm **@MariBiscuits** <http://bit.ly/t6Bsl> Reminded me of your band website tweet. (via **@threedaymonk**).
- 08:37pm Even on this story - <http://tinyurl.com/ydpbumq> - the Mail's baying mob of commenters round on the feminists. Filthy rag.
- 09:14pm "Pandas are pointless, wasteful and silly. They should die". <http://tinyurl.com/lfdszw> Um... much like Telegraph journos.
- 09:22pm Had no idea that the Telegraph had a section for weird stories. <http://tinyurl.com/5et3al> Might as well call it 'please link to us'...
- 09:27pm "Sceptics have pointed out several major flaws in the theory." <http://tinyurl.com/yeh97uk> Yes, the Telegraph used to be a proper paper.
- 09:51pm Jar on my desk: two yoyos, a peg, two guitar picks, and the hand from a Robosapien. Important stuff.
- 11:48pm Hmm - Chalkboard - 'a fun tool to play with the JavaScript language'. <http://tinlizzie.org/chalkboard/>

Sunday 27 September

- 03:10am I find that the thing about Calculus is that it only makes sense once you realise that the notation doesn't make sense.
- 03:37am I'm very very juvenile. I do find this funny: <http://bit.ly/HsEZ3>
- 05:31pm Saw Christmas stuff in the shops today.
Only one response: <http://open.spotify.com/track/7yn3iEkBDjE0uCQEwx7fPU>
- 07:50pm **@robertbrook** - 'cool' is ok, but you should say über-cool, mega-cool or ultra-cool, 'pretty' is not today's qualifier of choice.
- 09:37pm This will end with politicians looking stupid: <http://tinyurl.com/llnytx> Hacked within a week, I reckon.

Monday 28 September

- 01:42am What's all this github nonsense? I'm checking out the latest version of Drupal from CVS. (No really, I am. Long story).
- 02:07am Strange as it may seem, I've actually missed php's sociopathic nature. (Sorry, ruby, will be back soon.)
- 02:40am Errata: "In the middle of the page 'labotomy' is misspelled in code block, it should be spelled 'lobotomy'" <http://tinyurl.com/y8hvaxt>
- 04:06pm Shivering. Definitely coming down with cold.
- 04:11pm Pretty sure I've caught this cold from using PHP and CVS - dirty tech.
- 04:55pm Ecopod Gold Biodegradable Coffin - <http://bit.ly/ujFCm> (No reviews though).
- 08:11pm Reminded of a better time when interviewers said what they thought. <http://bit.ly/13iExz> Robin Day and Dennis Skinner.
- 10:35pm Advice for people making screencasts: make screencast, write down what you said, publish it as webpage, throw screencast away. Thx.
- 11:37pm "Where's your API? On its way." BBC Wildlife Finder FAQs. Interesting comments on wikipedia too. <http://www.bbc.co.uk/nature/faq>

Tuesday 29 September

- 12:22am It's really time to stop defending BBC3 - the stuff it shows can easily be rolled back into the BBC1/2 schedules: <http://tinyurl.com/y8oy8qs>
- 01:51am I like the way that reddit has responded to being hacked here: <http://tinyurl.com/yd5lzt9> Open, honest, detailed.
- 01:52am Even smarter: <http://bit.ly/13COon>
- 02:20am "I am not protesting, I am just speaking through a megaphone." <http://bit.ly/20IUB4> Genius.
- 02:50am The original of the video from my last tweet, without the spammy inserts. <http://tinyurl.com/yaq8rg8>
- 03:31am Funny that I notice my old company doing this <http://tinyurl.com/yd9b9yk> on the same day as I order this <http://tinyurl.com/ybzosom>

- 10:10pm "Manchester United have brought home victory after a nail-biting Man" <http://bit.ly/kmPi1>
- 11:05pm Oh look - <http://tinyurl.com/yavav67> - shame on you, shame on you, shame on you shoddy journalists <http://tinyurl.com/ycgf8zp>

Wednesday 30 September

- 03:40am Apparently, it's ok for the Tories to associate with Baltic fascists because Lembit Opik's great-uncle was one? <http://tinyurl.com/yczapdh>
- 10:19am Neighbours doing DIY again - five years this has been going on. How many goddamn shelves do they need?
- 10:23am **@robertbrook** - there are things more sinister than DIY? Surely not.
- 12:16pm I do like what these cheeky chaps are doing: <http://bit.ly/12clTm>
- 02:07pm UK Border Agency has watched too much CSI. Magic light to detect foreigners: <http://bit.ly/3Zys37> (I hear chicken bone scrying works too).
- 05:15pm **@channel4news** Maybe Mandelson was trying to say cult. cf. Robin Day interviewing Dennis Skinner: <http://bit.ly/13iExz>
- 05:25pm I can't see how anyone watching the video of the interview would arrive at this article's conclusion or headline: <http://bit.ly/F3tO2>
- 05:30pm That headline - "Gordon Brown in TV meltdown" - is all over London. I thought the Evening Standard had promised to change. Sigh.
- 05:33pm **@lukeredpath** - we shouldn't laugh at those half-brained fascists, but the sparrow/crow, lion/tiger, giant panda stuff is hilarious.
- 05:44pm Once more enjoying the guardian's science section for its excellent sub-headings: Space/Physics/Medicine/Brain/Genetics/Dinosaurs/Darwin.
- 07:19pm Someone should make a twitter app for cab drivers - people who've tweeted from my cab today. Bus and train drivers too. And ship captains.
- 11:52pm I was born in the 70s - the decade of spider plants. Where did they all go?

October

Thursday 01 October

- 05:38pm DLR system crash means unwelcome detour for me via the Dome.
- 07:50pm I'm unclear what this has to do with copyright: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/technology/8285954.stm> BBC journos, please explain.
- 07:54pm All these internets aside, right now I'm pretty excited that the child has decided to try his first, faltering steps. *#babysteps*
- 08:57pm **@tomtaylor** - me too.
- 11:02pm "Use the magic hair wand to create your favourite communist": <http://bit.ly/2r0N7R>

Friday 02 October

- 02:38am Just been asked as a security question - colour of eyes. Hmm. I really am not sure. Going to check.
- 04:41am Wondering whether to go to bed, or to have another cup of tea. Not really tired, but it is nearly 5am... again.
- 06:17am **@robertbrook** - in the end I decided to go for 'bloodshot'.
- 07:11am **@jodrell** happy b'day sir.
- 04:48pm There should be on-the-spot fines for any retailers that say 'out of warranty' against the sale of goods act. Ta, vodafone.
- 10:27pm Jonathan Aitken's on the same train as me from Cambridge. He's in first class, but still a crook.
- 11:20pm How on earth did a court judge Aitken bankrupt when now he travels first class? I wonder what his previous creditors would think.
- 11:25pm **@kufena** careful with that trouser press!

Saturday 03 October

- 12:01am Yay for funny drunk people on the tube. "equador? Like in toy story?" Well, not really...

- 05:34pm It's insulting when people say 'DRM allows this' or 'DRM permits that'. The BBC says its HD DRM will 'allow sharing' across home networks.
- 05:47pm "We've just introduced a way for you to control the number of stores you see in your results." Thank-you Google! 'Fewer shopping sites' FTW.
- 06:00pm **@darrenwaters** - I understand that, but it's spin-ful. We wouldn't say that, eg., car insurance *permits* one to get from A to B, would we?
- 06:49pm **@darrenwaters** - No, I don't assume that, hence the point about insurance. It's the language being used to describe DRM I'm objecting to.
- 11:51pm Angry post about Vodafone: <http://bit.ly/Nnmy>

Sunday 04 October

- 12:49am 51% of tory grassroots want the abolition of Sure Start according to ConservativeHome. Well, that's one more reason to vote against them.
- 01:48am Bloody hell, two blog posts in one night. This time on the BBC Freeview HD debate. <http://tinyurl.com/yd2rxen>
- 02:07am Why do we think of the internet as directionally above us - hence up-load and cloud and so on?
- 04:02pm Child can now open sitting room door. We probably need to move house. *#babysteps*
- 07:09pm **@hlame** I think Archosauriformes is a good name - it means 'shaped like ruling lizards'.
- 08:57pm NHS choices on the HPV vaccine - <http://tinyurl.com/yc5p4p8> "The human papilloma virus vaccine did not cause the death of Natalie Morton"
- 09:01pm I nearly died aged 15 after an anaphylactic reaction to the flu vaccine. But the evidence in favour of vaccinations is overwhelming.
- 11:21pm **@tom_watson** - are they going to rename MySociety ThereIsNoSociety ?
- 11:23pm **@tom_watson** - or rather, ThereIsNoSuchThingAsSociety, but you get the drift.

Monday 05 October

- 12:20am That child is getting much too heavy to rock back to sleep.
#babysteps
- 01:05am "In France, profit-sharing schemes are mandatory for companies of 50 employees or more." I didn't know that.
<http://tinyurl.com/y86g7uc>
- 01:10am "We no longer mean the words we speak to each other at work." <http://bit.ly/3TjfRI>
- 01:28am Must be getting old - spent 15 minutes looking for my glasses only to find that they're in the pocket of my shirt.
- 01:57am Spotify suggested this album for me when I searched for Joy Division: <http://open.spotify.com/album/1X55HMq0GEe5lKOWu1s0uF> WTF?
- 02:47am Direct individual share ownership in the UK has dropped from over 50% in 1963 to 15% today. The internet should be reversing this trend, no?
- 03:56am I know it's just an opening joke, but, please... the UK CIO in the context of dismal gender balance in IT: <http://tinyurl.com/y9dnnnk>
- 04:55am "Racing car speeding around the almost perpendicular wall with an unleashed lion cub as passenger" <http://tinyurl.com/ybyamf4>
- 05:01am I'm amazed that as many as 26% of people are not going to fly next year: <http://tinyurl.com/ydbl6k8> It cannot be that high.
- 12:39pm I think **@tom_watson** is right about **@steiny**. There **is** a difference between advising a government and being an appointed adviser to a party.
- 12:57pm **@nevali** If we had anything like sensible numbers rather than the industry-produced ones it would help: <http://bit.ly/14DPqe>
- 01:16pm "Agile/SCRUM/XP is going backwards in my opinion and missing the point." Useful perspective here. (via **@floehopper**)
- 01:21pm Um, let's try that again. "Agile/SCRUM/XP is going backwards in my opinion..." Useful perspective here: <http://bit.ly/mEdGb> via **@floehopper**
- 02:17pm Looking forward to snapping the plaque of Edgar Wallace, King Kong man, who was born in the next street to me, for **@openplaques**

- 02:28pm **@jodrell** All to be expected, but it's a shame it's now the artists pushing these punitive measures for the record distribution companies.
- 02:30pm RT **@harrym**: Ernest marples postcodes is no more :<http://ernestmarples.com/blog/?p=3> Royal Mail are idiots. In whose interest is this?
- 02:55pm Wondering if we should all just not use postcodes on our post for a day, just to make the point... Not that I post anything these days.
- 04:23pm **@kufena** - no! It was a good look. You'll regret it.
- 04:34pm "Management consulting isn't a science, Stewart says; it's a party trick." <http://bit.ly/3RIwL5>
- 05:42pm Nick Reynolds has responded to the DRM thread: <http://tinyurl.com/ybtb32n> A misunderstanding of open devices. **@nevali** doing good work there.
- 10:52pm **@nevali** I think this is all about controlling our devices - open source devices will not be allowed HD content. I wish they'd just say it.

Tuesday 06 October

- 06:05am Uhoh. Looks like I forgot to sleep again.
- 07:54pm BBC HD DRM thing is fascinating - now it appears that it's not really encryption at all. So, the rightholders are being spun too. Madness.
- 07:56pm Can't help wondering if the BBC HD DRM will actually create a market for devices with 'No copy protection!' as a feature. Backfire.
- 07:59pm **@nevali** - but if the devices clearly don't use the HD transmitted programme guide, then they'd have no grounds to, right?
- 09:37pm **@oneplusphoto** If you're not doing iPhone stuff, then I'd use MacRuby instead. Much nicer syntax and you can drop into Obj-C if you need to.
- 10:18pm **@oneplusphoto** - give it a few more weeks and you'll be saying [NSObjectiveCSyntaxWasNotSoBadAfterAllYouKnow init?].
- 11:27pm The sign of a classy computer language is lots of reserved words that aren't yet used, but, you know, are computer-y.

Wednesday 07 October

- 02:09am Now, that's a hat: <http://www.gtj.org.uk/en/large/item/GTJ01256/>
- 02:30am "A Review of the Pirated Copy of Windows 7" <http://bit.ly/o8s1D>
- 01:38pm Should I sign the non-profit postcode petition? I don't agree with its ability-to-pay logic . I want postcodes in the public domain. Hmm....

Thursday 08 October

- 01:20am Current government has already proposed and more or less committed to feed-in tariffs. Did the guardian forget? <http://tinyurl.com/yeejnm>
- 01:30am "Government is committed to having FITs in place in April 2010." <http://tinyurl.com/lunyhf>
- 02:54am "TO A TOP SCIENTIST", "YOU PUT IN OTHER DETAILS" <http://bit.ly/2DGCFp>
- 08:56pm The Conservative Bible Project is hilarious, frightening, cringeworthy, bizarre, and somewhat amazing. <http://tinyurl.com/yatcu68>
- 09:11pm "Okay, you lazy bitch, I'm getting tired of this waterhead fuckaround that you're doing." <http://tinyurl.com/ld24kj>
Hunter S Thompson rants.

Friday 09 October

- 08:46am I don't really understand why this isn't illegal: <http://tinyurl.com/yz2jpvq> Oh, it's the church...
- 04:59pm Wondering if Trinity College will use the dome for its annual swan desecration ceremony. Or, just as a place to store its wads of cash.
- 07:32pm Child is **so** close to walking. Three proper steps tonight. Video proof for Grandparents. So proud of the little chap. *#babysteps*
- 09:03pm Apparently Windows 7 will have H.264 support built in. Finally, I'll be able to send relatives videos from my Kodak recorder without hassle.

- 09:12pm Maybe I should have a Windows 7 launch party - I could send my relatives videos and scream at them "Can you see it now? Can you? Can you?"
- 10:58pm This whole 'Tory 'send the economy into a death spiral' thing sounds like something to avoid: <http://tinyurl.com/ylax5wb>

Sunday 11 October

- 04:39pm Sniffing and shivering - damn cold. How many colds have I had this year?
- 11:49pm Fucking classy. I hate marketing people: <http://tinyurl.com/ykqxhpf> What shiteheads you are, Pepsi.
- 11:55pm I watched a lot of Sons of Anarchy before I realised it was Hamlet with motorbikes.

Monday 12 October

- 04:29pm "It's classic God." <http://bit.ly/Vqqd0>
- 04:49pm **@delineator** My initial fears about RDF seem confirmed - lots of talk. Lots and lots of talk about RDF. Sigh.
- 05:45pm Wondering if this is the kind of equipment that **@floehopper** used. <http://bit.ly/sxHYL>
- 05:54pm I disagree with almost every sentence on this summary page: <http://bit.ly/3zRMQ0> (which itself has a shitty aspx url).
- 06:22pm **@jrep** There's a bias against publishing data, however imperfectly, and a bias towards having meetings about publishing data...
- 08:02pm Sneezing, shivering. Shivering, sneezing. Bah, I hate colds.
- 08:19pm Cat registered as hypnotherapist <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/england/8303126.stm> (via **@elderberry**)
- 09:41pm Um.. what the hell is going on? <http://bit.ly/2jdqcw>
- 10:00pm So it looks like the Guardian has been gagged to prevent them reporting questions about gagging and press freedom. <http://bit.ly/10rnBJ>
- 10:25pm **@oneplusphoto** yep - see link in previous tweet: <http://bit.ly/10rnBJ>

- 10:36pm I can hear the child coughing in his cot - I hope the little monster hasn't caught my cold.
- 11:28pm Finally watching Electric Dreams - would it be awful to admit I remember both the film and the theme music. Yes, probably best keep mum.
- 11:36pm Ok, have given up watching it. Forgot how much I hate reality TV. Sorry.

Tuesday 13 October

- 01:12am Remote-controlled cyborg beetles: <http://bit.ly/dPIJs>
"There is nothing ok about this."
- 04:52am Still can't sleep; headache; sniffles; shivers. But, playing Deadline - 'Best game of 1983' <http://bit.ly/3IPMXT>
- 06:44am Oh look, the Spectator seems to have broken the guardian gag order: <http://bit.ly/eb8sy> Bad luck, *#carterruck*
- 07:29am *@jodrell* - I presume lawyers are rushing to the high court as we speak. The Spectator is the first mainstream coverage I've seen.
- 08:23am Excellent post on SEO: <http://powazek.com/posts/2090>
- 08:26am Here's my take on SEO from a couple of years ago: <http://bit.ly/xU2Kl>
- 10:43am Yay, fireworks: <http://bit.ly/A9L14> Mercurial Bee, I'm a Power Load and Vengeful Texan look excellent.
- 03:30pm The BBC is still a bit twee: "'blogsphere", the anarchic, anything-goes world of the internet'. Last week they we're explaining email to us.
- 07:36pm Writing to my MP, asking him to sign *@tom_watson*'s modest EDM requiring due process for accused file-sharers. <http://bit.ly/1XD4Xy>

Wednesday 14 October

- 12:40am *@oneplusphoto* This prior restraint lark has been going on a while: <http://bit.ly/kTIzX>
- 12:44am "The firm has an excellent record over recent years of securing injunctions prohibiting publication." Not any more. *#carterruck #trafigura*

- 12:47am Telegraph obituaries are always accidentally amusing, I find: "Fit, with a trim figure and capable sailor's hands, ..." <http://bit.ly/4AMxMB>
- 03:21am What a tangled web we weave: <http://bit.ly/1B2chL>
Mussolini started his political life as an MI5 operative.
- 03:43am Parchment - the online interactive fiction interpreter - is awesome. Go on, relive those text adventure days: <http://parchment.toolness.com/>
- 04:00am I cry a bit when I see tech journalists write things like 'email browser' - it's as revealing as motoring hacks writing 'steering circle'.
- 05:29am Add a pizza oven, and this would be the best invention in the world. <http://www.uncrate.com/men/gear/gaming/arkeg/>
- 06:51am I can't believe anyone would want to smell like a Swiss soldier: <http://bit.ly/Ufe9T>
- 10:26am Simon Singh has been granted leave to appeal at the High Court. (via **@NewHumanist**) This is good.
- 02:21pm I for one would rather pay my £11 than live in this world. Ofwat asks to cut poor people's water off: <http://bit.ly/2cj1WJ>
- 02:31pm I'm still feeling rotten - bloody cold has put me out of service for near on a week now. Won't make **@lrug** tonight.
- 04:30pm Dear Royal Mail, what's the point in me choosing a date for you to redeliver my stuff if you're going to ignore it?
- 05:10pm Hey, Royal Mail, I'd be happy to pick it up from Post Office - probably buy a Twix at the same time. And it'd save you a trip. How about it?
- 08:35pm Currently stuffing face with chocolate fingers. <http://bit.ly/4AYvbh>

Thursday 15 October

- 06:05am Hey, **@guardian** sub-eds, "shake off the yolk of fascism" - surely, yoke? <http://bit.ly/1lDnBN>
- 06:14am These forms could come in handy: <http://www.bureauofcommunication.com/>

11:41am Still says 'shake off the yolk of fascism' - come on **@guardian**, you can change it to 'yoke'. I know you can.
<http://tinyurl.com/yzksnxe>

11:51am Fantastic idea from **@chrismcg**: **@guardian** should set up **@grauniad** for reporting spelling mistakes.

11:53am **@threedaymonk** - was that supposed to be a yolk?

01:16pm **@threedaymonk** - search engine onanism?

01:46pm Given the strength with which Ken fought disastrous PPP schemes, it's a bit rich for Boris to blame him for the shortfall in TfL's budgets.

01:51pm Another sharp post mocking and shaming money-grubbing SEO idiots. <http://bit.ly/1fLH2u> I tell you, it's astrology:
<http://bit.ly/3CjaW0>

02:14pm **@bm_** What am I not responding to? You're free to comment on the blog and I'll respond. What do you disagree with? Let's discuss.

02:19pm **@bm_** I'm saying it's easier than SEO folks pretend. I have a lot of experience in this. And, I mention site structure don't I? Oh yes I do.

02:46pm **@bm_** I have no problem with PHP skills, none with sales skills. But SEO is, after the basics, smoke and mirrors. The parallels don't hold.

02:50pm **@bm_** It's difficult to respond fully in 140 chars, I am trying not to seem dismissive.

02:57pm **@bm_** My post does mention link-spamming, but that's only in passing. I'm saying that most SEO is luck, but is seen and charged as skill.

02:58pm **@bm_** I know you don't agree with that. That's ok, but don't think I'm missing something - I don't think I am.

03:05pm **@tomtaylor** saw this, thought of you chaps: <http://bit.ly/4dePJw>

03:09pm **@bm_** I'll write another post soon, to clarify a little - I think it's important, though I don't expect you to agree with me. All the best.

08:17pm Anyone else remember when rubbish Java IDEs cost £6,000 a seat? IDEA - not rubbish and, I was once told, 'too cheap' - is now open source.

08:26pm **@robertbrook** - just a blog post: <http://tinyurl.com/yjy4pk2> Looks like it starts with v 9.0. Sorry to get your hopes up and then, dash them.

- 08:29pm Boy has caught a nasty cold, which means my jumper is caked in his snot, as is the USB socket for my Macbook. *#babysteps*
- 08:59pm "disconnecting end users is [not] the slightest bit consistent with policies that attempt to promote eGovernment" <http://tinyurl.com/yjcv333>
- 09:24pm According to the **@guardian**, it's hard to shake off 'the yolk of fascism'. <http://tinyurl.com/yzksnxe> Please fix, just for me. *#beeinbonnet*
- 11:20pm **@memespring** - hah. And a measure of how quickly something's spreading would be Tweets/s/s - it's like physics all over again.
- 11:28pm OMG Yahoo!'s buzz! has taken a dive! <http://tinyurl.com/yfkt6cl> (Um, WTF is Yahoo!'s buzz? And why is the chart scale so misleading?).
- 11:38pm When my cold is better, I going to go on a binge of positive tweeting . Been pretty grumpy of late. All tweets will end with Awesome or Rad!
- 11:41pm In the meantime - I cannot believe that I agree with Melanie Phillips: <http://tinyurl.com/yzmabqg>

Friday 16 October

- 12:26am **@bengoldacre** - I think this may be moon man's speech from 2001. <http://tinyurl.com/ylgckld> The bit on crystals and dowsing is special.
- 12:32am David Tredinnick MP talking about complementary medicine, crystals, dowsing, the moon in 2001. <http://tinyurl.com/yk5q7mn> He's still an MP.
- 07:08pm Wonder if O2, Which?, Columbus Direct and Tiscali are happy sponsoring the Mail's homophobia? Maybe we could email O2 from our iPhones..
- 07:30pm **@lukeredpath** - Yep. Just Associated Companies advertising now, like findaproperty.com. But still on, for example, <http://tinyurl.com/b4znsg>
- 07:36pm Fascinated by the latest twitmobs - don't agree with most of them. From outside I can understand how they look 'orchestrated'. This is new.
- 07:47pm **@lukeredpath** - yeah. And I do wonder whether we're just confirming the Mail's worldview whenever we react to them like this. Ho hum.

- 07:47pm **@lukeredpath** - it is new that we can call out those advertisers now. It was harder before.
- 08:14pm London2012 have sent us a weasel words letter about the bone-stupid closure of Greenwich Park for a summer. Oh yes, I'll be glad to respond.
- 08:35pm About to give Uncharted 2 a go. Well, after I've tidied the kitchen. Did enjoy Uncharted. A lot. Might be gone a while.
- 08:47pm The print issue of the Mail, I'm told, didn't carry the "nothing 'natural'" headline. Is the Mail more extreme online? Was it misguided SEO?

Saturday 17 October

- 02:49am Hah. Notice that Uncharted 2 can twitter my progress. Or lack of it.
- 09:13am Child is snotty, drooly, covered in Weetabix and affectionate. Dad is now covered in snot, drool and weetabix. *#babysteps*
- 07:35pm This could be good: <http://bit.ly/yZMpO> Growing OO Software, Guided by Tests.
- 08:28pm Child walking triumphantly round naked, waving his nappy. Hmm. When did he work out how to take his nappy off? *#babysteps*

Sunday 18 October

- 03:34am Finished Uncharted 2. Not as good as the first one - kept expecting a dark, horrific twist which never really came. Visually amazing though.
- 02:43pm Child had great fun copying a police-car's siren today. Ooooh-ooooh-ooooh. Smiling through his snotty cold. *#babysteps*
- 07:29pm Good article by Simon Singh, although I wonder why they could only get a crimewatch-style picture of him: <http://tinyurl.com/yfnegf4>

Monday 19 October

- 01:30am The child has been very sad tonight, cold's not helping.
The worst night since he was a tiny baby. And it's only
1:30 *#babysteps*
- 03:02pm Wow. That nude tech calendar thing is real- I assumed it
was a joke. What an idiotic project, and a ridiculous way to
promote UK enterprise.
- 04:55pm Possibly the best magazine article teaser ever: <http://tinyurl.com/yllrdbq> (From <http://tinyurl.com/yhv4xnc>)
- 07:24pm "Will my email still work during the Postal Strike?" Um.
Yep.
- 07:43pm "Only 1.5 percent of all Open Source Software (OSS)
developers are women." That's bloody awful. We must fix
it. <http://tinyurl.com/yhxrxt>
- 07:45pm RT **@tom_watson** Presumably, this outrage is why
councils should be using Open Source solutions? <http://bit.ly/kyxpa>

Tuesday 20 October

- 06:59pm Need to see one in real-life, but my first impression is that
Apple's Magic Mouse looks like a sanitary product. Does it
have wings?
- 07:00pm "Via a series of adapters Apple says will be available
shortly" Nooooooo! Apple, no more monitor adapters,
please.
- 07:11pm Sky One to broadcast Jacko séance: <http://bit.ly/kAGEs>
- 08:32pm Hey Ocado - how do I stop you delivering that filthy
Murdoch paper, The Times, with my order? I'd hate to be
counted in its readership.
- 08:55pm What a load of bollocks - <http://tinyurl.com/yfb2e67> -
you're telling me they didn't just say 'um... shall we add
another blade?'
- 09:33pm We've spent many years training young people to tolerate
adverts, now comes pay-off time: <http://tinyurl.com/yzr4f2l> No shame in it. Right?
- 09:49pm This seems a useful piece of activist mischief: <http://bit.ly/3EgnFH>

Wednesday 21 October

- 05:12pm Seeing that Accenture have fleeced the government for another £350m IT failure. Must stop doing that.
- 05:56pm UK banks are paying out around £100bn in bonuses. UK government borrowing is £77bn. Hmm.... This farce could be fixed.
- 09:27pm Whoops - <http://www.greenwichauctions.co.uk/index.php> h@ck3d...
- 09:37pm This week's auction: pug dogs and nazi memorabilia, eg. "10 piece metal sculptured Pug rock band with conductor" <http://tinyurl.com/ylfoblrl>
- 09:50pm @currybet - don't worry, I'm told this phase only lasts, oh, eighteen years.
- 10:31pm "The researchers arranged for a brightly coloured clown to ride a unicycle around the square." <http://tinyurl.com/yfp2vlp>
- 11:07pm @floehopper - maybe they'll cover next week's Ubuntu release in the same way...
- 11:17pm @threedaymonk - that's awful. Oh and look, ex-BBC executive Highfield is now Microsoft UK's managing director.
- 11:20pm Dear BBC, what exactly is the "Linux-based Ubuntu system"? Oh, you mean Ubuntu? Which releases on the dot, every six months, for free.

Thursday 22 October

- 12:21am Apple "inherently plan to throw away 90% of the work they do." Interesting take on innovation. <http://tinyurl.com/5wj9jd>
- 05:06am "Apple, which uncharacteristically botched its new operating system Snow Leopard." Um, how? <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/business/8310867.stm>
- 03:16pm "Wi-fi, or Wireless Fidelity, ..." BBC news, how terrible you are at technology. <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/england/merseyside/8318544.stm>
- 05:05pm Reddit has a point: this does look like a famous Galactic Emperor from a galaxy far, far away. <http://bit.ly/40OAZO>
Oh no, it's the Pope.

- 05:18pm "We were in the main reception next to Piers Morgan when about 30 police officers turned up." +1 for bravura name dropping. *#bbcqt*
- 05:22pm Funny how the iPhone is the top story on the day Windows 7 is launched. Nokia does Apple a favour, methinks.
- 05:29pm Very conflicted on whether the BBC have done the right thing by allowing Griffin on the air. On balance, I think not. But narrowly. *#bbcqt*
- 07:12pm **@lukeredpath** I don't understand how one can support Nick Griffin's right to appear but deny protestors the right to protest it.
- 07:15pm I come down against Griffin appearing on QT because I see a difference between reporting the news and inviting someone on to a programme.
- 07:20pm Fascism big in the 1930s and 1970s and 2010s - a forty-year cycle? Two generations? Or just co-incidence?
- 07:25pm I remember that the bridge we walked across to primary school back in late 70s Wales was covered with National Front graffiti.
- 07:45pm . "**@beng** weren't they also difficult decades from an economic perspective. (via **@pheater**)" // Yes, I think that matters too.
- 08:10pm Like I said, there should be personal and corporate fines for employees who refuse to uphold statutory rights:
<http://tinyurl.com/yf73xux>
- 09:33pm Signed up for google apps. My dashboard says "1 users". Shocked that no-one coded singular/plural. That seems shoddy.
- 09:38pm Just heard that ThoughtWorks finally switched over to Google Mail from Lotus Notes. *#rofl*
#tbattookeffinlongenough (via **@obie**)
- 09:55pm Very little to disagree with here: <http://bit.ly/Kj8fV> If you're as disdainful of clergy as I AM

Friday 23 October

- 01:04am Google Reader's just added Popular items. That's interesting. Or was it there before and I didn't notice?
- 01:39am Remote warfare: <http://tinyurl.com/yk5vtt5> Commuting to war and going home at night.

- 01:56am Gosh people online talk some crap about internet start-ups. Do this. Don't do this. Blah, blah, blah.
- 02:49am Latterly, am somewhat obsessed by 1980s infocom text games. Especially the 'feelies' they were packaged with: <http://tinyurl.com/yk5vtt5>
- 03:29am **@lukeredpath** orgs like the Anti-Nazi League and energetic protests like this were important in marginalising the NF of the 1970s/80s.
- 04:10am Installing Ubuntu on my Macbook - have a terrible feeling I just formatted the wrong partition. Ho hum.
- 01:30pm "Everyone knows HYS is shit." <http://bit.ly/2iXn0f>
- 04:05pm Perfect: <http://bit.ly/FJMk9> (via **@SeanClarke**)
- 10:57pm If the Sherlock Holmes film came with this kind of delighting scene-setting merch folks would buy not pirate. <http://tinyurl.com/yjxglal>
- 11:00pm Am drunk. But it's my birthday. And I still have a cold and feel rubbish - 3 weeks and counting. Happy birthday to me...
- 11:19pm Wondering if web publishing - specifically: screencasts, podcasts, tutorials - allows adoption of more complex tools, for example, git.
- 11:34pm **@nevali** - interesting. When I worked in repro 10 years ago (wow!) Photoshop was book-learned, course-taught and picked up from colleagues.
- 11:41pm **@nevali** My own dumb-headedness is interesting. Even venerable photoshop is something that can be more complex because of the web...

Saturday 24 October

- 12:09am <http://tinyurl.com/yg26o9u> We're more likely to believe more detailed explanations, even if more general ones are more likely.
- 01:29am Intellectual property law protecting innovation, again: <http://bit.ly/19CdpD> (or not).
- 05:52pm Don't take the tabloids' mock outrage as anything but a short break in hatemongering: <http://tinyurl.com/yfte3ga> (via **@threedaymonk**)
- 07:16pm Nice (and largely spot-on) take-down of the SOA manifesto: <http://tinyurl.com/yLgsyvm>

- 07:56pm Just been asked if it's possible to email somebody a website. A whole website. Please save me from entrepreneurs who 'get' the web.
- 09:46pm **@threedaymonk** - could it not be that it's bang up-to-date and that Aberdeen has gone and no-one noticed?
- 10:03pm Upset that "Google Chrome" app isn't just called "Chrome". Puts you in the same squalid place as "Adobe Photoshop, et al".

Sunday 25 October

- 01:50am Now, for all you UK insomniacs are wondering what to do with that extra hour, here's a game: <http://tinyurl.com/cquxed>

Monday 26 October

- 02:38pm **@mikebutcher** - good luck with Vodafone, they wouldn't even replace the broken USB cable for mine.
- 02:43pm **@brunns** - although it's a general rule that no third party is as careful and security-conscious as you are. Until you're not.
- 03:51pm 60% of UK adults think creationism should be taught in science? No. No. <http://tinyurl.com/yk5h3f7> "Darwinism remains controversial". Huh?
- 03:57pm Must... not... allow... children... to... have... fun... <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/8325743.stm> Intellectual property to the rescue.
- 07:15pm This is a new twist - someone on BBC's HYS quoting Atticus Finch in defence of Nick Griffin. <http://tinyurl.com/yjksxo8> Mind-truly-boggled.
- 07:19pm Thinking of submitting this as a bug: application calls itself 'Google Chrome' instead of 'Chrome'.
- 07:47pm Have asked. Waiting for answers that aren't silly: <http://bit.ly/2gbVjJ>

Tuesday 27 October

- 02:05am Very much annoyed at another article implying that people who had rare reactions to vaccines must be against vaccination. I did, I'm not.
- 01:01pm I love this posed (daily heil) pic of a middle class criminal being herded by police on bikes. <http://tinyurl.com/ygdbvvt> Go on, get him!
- 01:11pm Waiting for Mail to report story: "Can't even shoot a baboon in Brown's Britain without incurring some pinko monkey-loving lunatic's rage."
- 05:00pm Reading that betting offices won't take bets on the date of the Queen's death, but will on the date of Charles becoming king.
- 10:42pm Where did all those tawdry 'Buy' links in Spotify come from. How come classy services always end up cheap?
- 11:01pm "10 geckos held in small boxes were taped to his legs." <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/europe/8326669.stm>
- 11:04pm BBC news makes no distinction between file-sharers' and infringers. 'Persistent file-sharing' is perfectly legal! <http://tinyurl.com/yfgtnoo>
- 11:06pm "It is time to decide on the balance between anarchy and authority in the digital world." What?
- 11:35pm It is still worth reading Courtney Love's letter from 2000 - artists and the 'creative industry' aren't the same. <http://tinyurl.com/yjpgma7>
- 11:53pm About to make a cup of tea, stick on the headphones - maybe a bit of Bowie - and start reading @doctorow's Makers which arrived today.
- 11:59pm From the briefings we're already seeing, I'd wager that the key word in Mandelson's piracy policy tomorrow will be 'persistent'.

Wednesday 28 October

- 02:02am Going to miss this little monster and all five of his teeth when they're away next week: <http://tinyurl.com/yh3uhck> #babysteps
- 02:09am Today's new game for the child was giving us the phone handset and making us pretend to phone people. #babysteps

- 03:50am "I'm baffled at the economics of nineteenth-century whaling" <http://bit.ly/Y3Eoz>
- 04:05am I missed this account of RBS Group's spectacular near-collapse and irrationality: <http://bit.ly/PQGLG> It's good.
- 04:32am This Onion vid is funny and clever on several levels: <http://bit.ly/jI0tJ>
- 04:47am I believe we have found where the giant moon ants live: <http://bit.ly/sPWfi>
- 02:30pm Mandelson: "I have consulted widely and it turns out that none of you have a yacht as big as David Geffen." (or something like that)
- 07:23pm **@tomafro** - a military coup?
- 07:26pm Seriously - does this look like an industry crippled by illicit, uncontrolled piracy? <http://tinyurl.com/ygls3jc>
- 07:55pm It worries me that the main way the creative industry identify illegal filesharers is by publishing material and seeing who downloads it.
- 11:43pm Great move by Arnie - I so hope it's for real. <http://tinyurl.com/ykyzag2>

Thursday 29 October

- 02:20pm Fairly sure that all polls are just insights into the strange, unrepresentative world of people that are prepared to talk to pollsters.
- 02:29pm Wrong question to ask pollsters - how do you know if your polls are representative? Hint: they use more polls. Nonsense all the way down.
- 02:46pm "No taxpayer pound should be the source of easy profit." <http://tinyurl.com/yktbv8> Austin Mitchell on government IT and blacklisting.
- 04:28pm Heard this before: <http://tinyurl.com/yj78olk> Great if it happened, but rights-holders will try to block. IP - fuelling innovation, again.
- 04:44pm I just can't see why Vodafone is so prominent in this article: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/england/hampshire/8331215.stm>
- 04:50pm For years, mobile carriers have been saying they're not **just** a network; turns out they're not **even** a network: <http://tinyurl.com/yzqsca5>

08:26pm I find it bloody hilarious that if Cameron gets in, he'll probably at some point have to receive 'President Blair'. That must irk.

10:15pm Can hear the child blowing raspberries through the baby monitor. Hoping he'll drop off back to sleep. *#babysteps*

Friday 30 October

12:42pm **@threedaymonk** you tried sprinkling the XML with the blood of a virgin goat, butchered under a full moon, right?

01:06pm **@threedaymonk** - yeah, sometimes brute forcing is the only way to deal with goats.

01:09pm Wish I could have stayed at *#playful09* - big headache sent me home to sleep.

01:12pm Oh and since everyone is thinking about games at *#playful09* - enjoy these: <http://tinyurl.com/yfwv7pl>

06:22pm Oh boy. This Nutt sacking makes what the government's doing look like an orchestrated campaign of stupidity. They're not stupid. What gives?

Saturday 31 October

12:13am Quiet in this here house without the wife and child. Missing them already - a whole week without them ahead.

12:15am Macabre miracle just before Halloween: <http://bit.ly/3yUaes> Maybe they're right about that transubstantiation business. Or not.

05:34pm Dark already. Next year we should all just stay on BST.

November

Sunday 01 November

- 07:28am On the first train from Greenwich. Sharing carriage with zombies, vampires and a witch. Hallowe'en survivors.
- 09:02am .@**grauniad** (hope you're monitoring this address) broken link in this Will Hutton article: <http://bit.ly/TXzRX>
- 09:09am @**tom_watson** - I half agree with him, but recently I've seen people, who I never thought would, writing to Ofcom, to their MPs, etc.
- 09:11am @**tom_watson** - for example, this doesn't look like a mob's actions to me: <http://www.ofcom.org.uk/tv/ifi/tvlicensing/enquiry/responses/>
- 09:44am I'm glad that someone is finally taking on the Sun's irresponsible rabble-rousing over cervical cancer screening: <http://bit.ly/HpJkb>
- 09:56am The UK's unspoken constitution, written down: <http://www.democraticaudit.eu/news/>
- 10:44am I am so fucking embarrassed when I hear these kind of stories: <http://bit.ly/33EijD> In fact, I'm now embarrassed to be British. Thanks.
- 10:58am I find it amazing that much of the coverage of the Nutt sacking has focussed on Jacqui Smith. Isn't she yesterday's news?
- 11:10am @**krishgm** how many executives has RBS employed on salary+bonus schemes since entering public ownership? Have the contracts changed?
- 11:17am @**jodrell** best headline was 'Nutt-sack response makes Johnson look small'. Made me giggle too.
- 11:22am Christmas music. Cue two months of anti-yuletide grumbling from me. Best I don't go anywhere without my iPod from now on.
- 01:27pm The child, being introduced to paganism at his grandparents... <http://yfrog.com/70otkj>
- 01:43pm @**david_a_black** - a friend of mine used to say he was an author, but now says he's an engineer because he gets hassled less. Keeping us safe.
- 03:16pm Paranoid ramblings from me about 'technical measures' and why we must oppose them: <http://tinyurl.com/yaq43ny>

- 03:25pm Just had a comment on my blog accusing me of 'hiding behind the anonimity (sic) of the blog' - my name's there f***tard, on every page!
- 03:30pm The Man from U.N.C.L.E made an instrumental version of the Batman Theme. Who knew? <http://bit.ly/4bcqzs>
- 07:29pm Google analytics says: I'm your man for washing machines and version control. Who'd have guessed? <http://bit.ly/1JYfG1>
- 07:56pm Democracy Club seeking volunteers in every constituency to gather information before the next election: <http://bit.ly/1G4n7r> Know anyone?
- 08:58pm **@robertbrook** - tweet 54,321 will be special.
- 08:59pm **@robertbrook** - er, not that all your tweets aren't special...
- 11:09pm Good god, faster broadband speed won't increase music downloading - you can already download 24 hours of music in ~30 mins. Morons.

Monday 02 November

- 01:25am Can't sleep; rescuing old blog posts. My, I used to be pretty insightful. Wonder if I can get them all into my new blog.
- 01:38am My finest blogging hour - <http://bit.ly/2MJBIG> - well, maybe not. Rather, a juvenile dig at rSpec via the medium of YouTube.
- 01:44am "Every day it seems another of my liberties is traded away, by sound-bite, in the service of my security. " <http://bit.ly/434yjR> Me, in 2005
- 06:59am Congrats BBC on Democracy Live launch. I guess you might like to tone down the design gloss on it- you know, so it's readable and navigable.
- 07:47am Still my favourite super-hero: Action Item! <http://professionalsuperhero.com/>
- 08:17am 91 old blog posts from 2005-07 to put into my current blog. Too much template variation means no easy way to automate. Copy and Paste time.
- 08:20am Reading old blog posts is an odd pleasure - I was much more confident and less angry a couple of years ago.
- 08:51am **@tom_watson** <http://bit.ly/2mh0r4>

- 09:14am **@MummaBear** Trust me, there's not. All I have is the HTML from the internet archive, from various blogging systems. Blog itself, sadly dead.
- 09:17am **@mrpatto** - I can't believe you so blatantly stole their design. And, using some kind of time machine, used it before them. Shocking.
- 06:36pm The drug classification stuff is sort of here-and-there for me; much more worrying is the way the government is ignoring education advisors.
- 06:43pm Wow. The Mail's comment section plumbs the depths: <http://tinyurl.com/yc7ysro> Good work from DMW, again.
- 08:12pm More from me about the squeaky hinges of non-malleable software: <http://bit.ly/1jpx2i>
- 08:15pm Coming to the conclusion that it's not that 'Orwellian' is used too much these days, but rather that these days are too Orwellian.
- 08:31pm **@jrep** - Indeed. I nearly died of irony when I discovered that there is a real drug called Soma on the market. Brave new world...
- 09:15pm Racist chip shop owner was railing against the Icelandics tonight. Not going there again, despite their 'free wine while you wait' policy.
- 09:23pm Pretty sure we now need the government to set up an Advisory Council on the Misuse of Horse-riding.
- 09:48pm The thing is, if you send me spam 'newsletters', then you must have either tricked me into signing up or never have asked me. No exceptions.

Tuesday 03 November

- 04:59am Woah. Big head: <http://bit.ly/1Hnc04> Amazing. (via **@bobbiejohnson**)
- 03:22pm "My body is incompatible with Earth". <http://tinyurl.com/lfczpb> Mine too. Pleased to see someone discussing non-24 sleep. (via **@delineator**)
- 04:07pm "Spod, Spod, Spod, Marbles and Open University." Another self-indulgent blog post from me. <http://tinyurl.com/yjryfc9>
- 04:13pm **@chrismear** - what's your exit strategy? Front door, back door, or squeeze out the window?

Wednesday 04 November

- 02:33am Sometimes I really dislike XML - I find I usually need to convert it to CSV so I can use sensible tools. Like grep, awk, etc.
- 02:44am God I hate XML. <element fromdate="2009-07-24" todate="9999-12-31"/> Nooooooooo!
- 01:55pm Couldn't find a freely-usable list of UK MP twitter accounts. So I made one - <http://tinyurl.com/yzfm2xq>
Please use however you want.
- 02:16pm **@jodrell** - am missing the 'export as CSV' link on that page. But will check my list against it.
- 02:25pm **@jodrell** - I think you miss the magic of my list. It includes links to the publicwhip ids. Linked Data, innit?
- 02:43pm New blog post: "list of UK MPs on twitter" <http://bit.ly/1Zp6P7>
- 07:31pm **@lukeredpath** will do later tonight. Google docs newbie... And Comic Sans is the new Palatino.
- 11:32pm Not sure why I'm taking the bus. 188 to North Greenwich. Or so it says.

Thursday 05 November

- 09:15am piggybacking on **@beng**'s data: is your MP on twitter?
<http://mpsontwitter.co.uk/> (rt **@lukeredpath**) (Awesome)
- 09:25am Just noticed The **@guardian** have improved their comments section - no more waiting staring at an odd progress bar for it to load. Excellent.
- 09:29am **@dracos** Have not understood. Are you asking me to link to TWFY? Have credited parlpase here: <http://bit.ly/4y0gv>
- 09:34am **@dracos** Ah, ok. Excellent. Sorry, my spongy brain.
- 09:37am Oh dear. Laptop screen has just shattered. That's ruined my day.
- 09:48am **@nevali** there are a few - with varying degrees of accuracy. I started by looking at the lists that **@tom_watson** was on and went from there.
- 09:53am **@dracos** - ah. Ok, I see. people.xml. Didn't notice that before. I'll add a column when I get a mo.

- 10:12am **@lukredpath** - confused as to what to do. I'm guessing this link is what you want? <http://tinyurl.com/yfwemze>
- 10:12am **@lukeredpath** - confused as to what to do. I'm guessing this link is what you want? <http://tinyurl.com/yfwemze>
- 11:04am Very please that TheyWorkForYou now links to MPs' twitter feeds using the spreadsheet I collated. Thanks **@dracos**.
- 11:25am **@jodrell** - knocked it off the desk. All my fault.
- 12:31pm **@tom_watson** on the twitter website there's now a link 'listed' next to the following/followers numbers (top right). Does that help?
- 12:52pm I'm on a terrific blogging spree: "The marvellous Olympic compound-eye camera" <http://tinyurl.com/y982yvw>
- 12:54pm **@tom_watson** - when I looked on Wednesday, you were also on a list of top golfers, I guess whoever added you realised their mistake.
- 06:09pm **@lukeredpath @dracos** - I've given the MP twitter address data a more permanent home here - <http://mps.monstermischief.com/>
- 07:00pm It always shocks me a bit when folk who claim to be web professionals have almost zero presence on the web.
- 09:18pm **@SeanClarke** - you should have gone to Asda: <http://tinyurl.com/ybmlvty>
- 09:40pm Flash uses so much CPU on my mac that I'm increasingly certain it's an oil industry conspiracy to make us use more power.
- 09:58pm Monster Mischief is up - this'll be my new playground for stuff and nonsense. <http://monstermischief.com/>
- 10:19pm A "precipitous decline in clicks"; "84% of Internet users" don't click on ads. Don't say I didn't warn you. <http://tinyurl.com/yke58ny>
- 11:32pm Baguette dropped by killer bird robot from the future destroys Large Hadron Collider. <http://tinyurl.com/y9v46je>

Friday 06 November

- 01:13am I can't believe the newspapers have not managed to find a single ecstasy-taking equestrian, whom we could all condemn. Surely a conspiracy.

- 06:20am Pretty sure I'm going to fall asleep on the train and then when I wake up everyone will be giving me the 'there's that snoring man' look.
- 07:16am U2 are a practical irony experiment. First, 200 trucks on an environmental tour. Now they build a wall in Berlin.
<http://tinyurl.com/ybmb1g2>
- 10:18am Time to start the trek Wales-ward.
- 10:59am Tube maps removed from Greenwich station platform. Replaced with 'Security is our Priority' posters. Who does this?

Saturday 07 November

- 10:18am If the OpenOfficeMouse becomes a best-seller, my entire worldview will collapse. <http://openofficemouse.com/pr110609.html>
- 10:56am @jodrell - it has to be a joke, but what are they trying to say? jodrell
- 07:44pm Really, this is like, how, advertising people speak? Yeah? <http://bit.ly/vaFNL> (excellent).

Sunday 08 November

- 03:14pm Would you buy a website from these people? <http://www.btwebconsult.com/> Shoddy, BT, shoddy.

Monday 09 November

- 02:19pm Can't believe our little monster is now toddling around, and he's nearly a one year old. #babysteps
- 02:57pm <http://bit.ly/xVnQG> Wow. Looks like Ofcom is listening to real people and not kowtowing to industry.
- 06:41pm the uk-gov-data list really is driving me to drink. (rt @infovore)

Tuesday 10 November

- 03:04pm Mainstream media, and by that I mean reporters, must get better informed about digital issues. <http://tinyurl.com/y8l85fq>
- 03:18pm Just received a brand-new, unopened 1988 copy of 'Sherlock: The Riddle of the Crown Jewels' on 5¼" disk. <http://tinyurl.com/yjxglal> Yay!
- 03:36pm This article doesn't mention that decryption keys were only to be given to manufacturers who cripple their stbs. <http://tinyurl.com/y8l85fq>
- 03:46pm **@nevali, @jodrell** - yes, it's their use of the word 'trusted' I object to, when they mean 'those prepared to implement copy protection'.
- 04:23pm The Guardian's run out of news - it's now interviewing its own columnists! <http://tinyurl.com/y9nk3q2> Like that Peston bloke on the beeb.
- 09:18pm The new Phones4U 'pissing santa' campaign is bizarrely misjudged. <http://tinyurl.com/yz3lyeq> But, of course, I've tweeted it, so it works!
- 10:15pm I'm scared to admit this, but sometimes I use XSLT to transform XML to CSV. No really, I do. Hoping I'm not alone.
- 10:25pm **@jrep** Oh, at least 12x. I haven't done the numbers, but I think making the text orange and using a bigger font speeds it up too.
- 10:31pm Greenwich council, your new street works thing doesn't work for me: <http://tinyurl.com/ydce98r> Oh, it's ASP.net. Stop this, please.
- 10:37pm Just before I fire off rude letter, it's not just me is it? This really doesn't work in firefox or in safari... <http://tinyurl.com/ydce98r>
- 10:46pm **@threedaymonk** - just got that far myself :) Looks like it's down at the moment. Will check again tomorrow.
- 11:03pm **@tomafro, @threedaymonk** - looks like it's coming back to life. I obviously caught it at a bad time.

Wednesday 11 November

- 12:37am Confessing to my recent infocom buying spree - <http://bit.ly/3FCsEw>

- 12:55pm Confessing to my recent infocom buying spree - <http://bit.ly/3FCsEw> (Another exciting parcel arrived this morning!)
- 01:03pm **@jodrell** - <http://infocom.elsewhere.org/gallery/wishbringer/> (including a glow-in-the-dark fake stone).
- 01:36pm "It's a sad day for American capitalism when a man can't fly a midget on a kite over Central Park." <http://tinyurl.com/ykbdunz>
- 02:33pm Woah. This is a little creepy: <http://bit.ly/3wV3Ww>

Thursday 12 November

- 02:00am Sobering up to find I've just written a bot to play text adventures in Campfire. How silly of me.
- 05:51pm **@threedaymonk** octal?
- 10:46pm A dastardly nut decided to remind me that I'm allergic. Bah. Still, managed to find some anti-histamines. Normal service resuming.
- 11:19pm Home after dramatic allergy incident. Final score: me, one; homicidal foodstuffs: nil.

Friday 13 November

- 01:18am **@lazyatom** Oh yes, A-OK. Sorry I had to run away.
- 04:15am All these wonky twitter image services and url shorteners make playing with twitter data much more of a chore.
- 12:24pm Now this is clearly news:http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk_politics/8357921.stm (or not).
- 05:47pm Next stage of my evil plans: writing a campfire bot in Inform 7.
- 11:19pm Thinking about adding a `<link rel="companiesopen.org"...` link to my company's web pages. **@delineator**, should I?
- 11:23pm **@delineator** - never mind, just remembered I don't have any company web pages. Best do that first.
- 11:59pm Use my magic ruby script and dfrotz to enjoy Interactive Fiction with friends in Campfire: <http://tinyurl.com/ykha9g3> Toodle-pip.

Saturday 14 November

- 12:29am Incredible sexist Australian document from just a generation or so ago (1963). Boy, we've come far. <http://tinyurl.com/cou6km> (via **@twrc**)
- 01:49am Simple twitter search API slurping script: <http://bit.ly/1kBfga>
- 02:24am **@jaggeree** - if I had your surname, I would not be able to resist naming at least one child octo.
- 04:35am Looking at Google's closure javascript library. Bit surprised so far, lots of java idioms.
- 07:44pm One of those few remaining uniquely British experiences is standing accidentally on a three-point plug. Ow. Ow. Ow.

Sunday 15 November

- 03:09am **@chrismear** - me too! Then I have to convince myself that I didn't just try to steal that car. I don't even know how to drive.
- 09:18pm **@threedaymonk** -They used to use Websphere Commerce Suite if memory serves. Oh, this is funny: <http://tinyurl.com/yf8y793>

Monday 16 November

- 12:50am Playing Zork, in Campfire. If anyone wants to join in: <http://techbelly.campfirenow.com/d059b>
- 01:48am I've said it before, but I really don't understand why anyone would pre-order a film in the iTunes store, nor how Apple gets away with it.
- 02:04am Possibly the best Stack Overflow answer I've ever seen: <http://tinyurl.com/ydb4j9j>
- 05:43am Just watched Dr Who. Don't get why it's so popular. It's like watching a Cocaine-fuelled episode of Dad's Army in Space.
- 01:36pm Have just been emailed a joke. It's like 1999 all over again.
- 01:39pm Taking the child to Hamley's for his birthday. Might regret this.

- 04:57pm Fucking police at Charing Cross station think it's ok to shove their labrador's face into our pushchair. Shaking with anger.
- 07:25pm Had such a lovely time with the child in Hamley's today - choosing to remember that and not being harrassed by the police on the way back.
- 07:40pm **@chrismdp** they terrified my little boy by shoving big sniffer dog's head into pushchair.
- 11:28pm <http://bit.ly/3CBz75> **@floehopper** good reason to go back?

Tuesday 17 November

- 01:16am In praise of... channel 69 | Editorial <http://bit.ly/2kGW1s> (via **@guardiantech**)
- 02:04am "Although Phooey appears to be the only anthropomorphic dog in the city, no one ever connects his two identities." <http://tinyurl.com/2kl4jg>
- 02:50am Today's excellent eurofact: the chap who wrote the Going For Gold theme music also scored The Dark Knight.
- 02:49pm ""This implies a level of criminal genius that you would not expect from a young boy." Um, really? Genius? <http://tinyurl.com/yaxd965>
- 05:35pm Not sure about this real-life shopping experience. How do I bookmark things for later?

Wednesday 18 November

- 12:25am **@mikebutcher** hope everything's ok. You're diving into odd rabbit holes recently. Beware the VC's worldview - it's not the only one.
- 01:17am Watching Horizon - started with an open mind, now bored by the cod science. Do we really need another Schroedinger's cat misappropriation?
- 01:24am Ok, annoyed now: "Nature discovered how to use the quantum weirdness of superposition". Are these real scientists? Real programme-makers?
- 01:28am "Without plant-life discovering this ability..." Please, kill me now. I'm waiting. Now would be good.

- 01:34am **@jrep** the presenter's just said 'we're need to put this camera up my nose to see where the quantum physics is happening'...
- 01:45am **@jrep** I object to the way the programme suggested quantum mechanics was a technology rather than a predictive theory.
- 01:51am **@jrep** - yeah. Very, very tiny guys in overalls - who, incidentally, are only ever approximately where you think they are :)
- 01:56am **@jrep** - like real mechanics, but smaller?
- 02:03am It's a bit odd to follow tweets from someone's home server, but I think I might anyway. **@titchyserver** Especially like the firewall tweets.
- 02:19am I am out-and-out fed up of being lectured about growing-up by people who think it's ok to spend a year's salary on a fucking sports car.
- 08:55pm This seems about right: http://i538.photobucket.com/albums/ff347/neris_k/LUmapcopy.jpg (tube map for tourists.)
- 09:31pm Seeing the Queen flanked by page-boys during her speech, makes me wonder if she had to have a CRB-check.

Thursday 19 November

- 06:12pm Now supply2.gov.uk are spamming me on behalf of BIP solutions - who want to train me in how to bid for 2012 contracts. Sigh.
- 07:18pm **@jaggeree** - In a proper geek calendar, of course, january would be month 0.
- 10:00pm Just built the child's presents for tomorrow. His first birthday will be messy good - another 7 babies are coming to his party. *#babysteps*
- 10:33pm Around this time a year ago, we were using the sight of Big Ben out of St. Thomas' windows to time the wife's contractions.
- 10:36pm Has SEO come to my rescue? Will the BBC no longer use scare quotes? http://www.bbc.co.uk/blogs/theeditors/2009/11/changing_headlines.html
- 11:38pm Interesting to see Google Polska and Nasza Klasa appearing in the top UK internet sites. <http://tinyurl.com/lyzg8v>

Friday 20 November

- 12:04am Starting another Campfire text adventure for insomniacs - 'The Lurking Horror'. Join me here: <http://techbelly.campfirenow.com/3054e>
- 08:17am Happy birthday to you, happy birthday to you, happy birthday to Leonard, happy birthday to you. *#bysteps* or maybe *#toddlersteps* now.
- 10:59am "Monitoring illegal filesharers' behaviour would mean they could be targeted with 'tailored products and services'" FFS. Noooooo.
- 10:59am **@brunns** - more impressive than seeing Jesus in a piece of toast. I guess.
- 11:10am Not sure I like Chrome OS. From what I've seen, you can't use Chrome OS to develop for Chrome OS.
- 03:33pm Realising that there's only a small cadre of folk who actually value the internet - and they're not the so-called internet entrepreneurs.
- 09:02pm **@nevali** - because new evidence comes to light. Oh wait, no, that's not it.
- 09:23pm This is how much the child enjoyed his first birthday: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/bengriffiths/4120759518/>
- 09:35pm **@nevali** - scientists say that evidence is at least as dangerous as horse-riding.
- 11:12pm **@nevali** - can we also shoot people who start blog posts with 'Hi!'? <http://interactive.bis.gov.uk/digitalbritain/digital-economy-bill/>
- 11:24pm From the Digital Economy Bill factsheet: "Computers process numbers rather than letters". Really?
- 11:26pm More: "it remains a possibility that these may not be deemed sufficiently effective in the future" Commitment. Love it.
- 11:29pm "Digital lending will be restricted to one loan to one user per copy of the work." How? By changing the physical laws of the universe?
- 11:30pm Ah yes, exactly: "[DRM] will be an important factor and obligations around DRM will need to be defined in secondary legislation."
- 11:33pm If a copyright holder uploads a copyrighted file to a service that exists to share content in order to entrap, I'd call that publishing.

11:34pm Oops, I meant making available.

11:40pm **@threedaymonk** - was just thinking the same, although I need to move registrar on a couple of them.

Saturday 21 November

07:37pm "It ought to be obvious that works produced in the reign of Queen Victoria should [no longer] be in copyright." <http://tinyurl.com/y9ucp7o>

09:02pm The child has had such a lovely couple of days. Today he made a bid for freedom in the park: <http://tinyurl.com/ybgr43e> Definitely my son.

09:30pm Sons of Anarchy is pretty good, but knowing that the main actor started out on Byker Grove makes it hard entirely to suspend disbelief.

10:21pm Pope, or devil? <http://amazingillusions.blogspot.com/2007/01/pope-or-devil-optical-illusion.html>

11:26pm Why no double-sided e-ink reader to stop page turn lag - the one page would load while you read the other, and so on. Double-buffering, see?

11:28pm Hmm. Given that I have two iRex iliads and some gaffer tape, why don't I make one?

11:29pm Failing that, I think we should re-remember how great scrolls were. Much more practical than books.

11:50pm **@jodrell** - really? What? It's genuinely the most annoying thing for me. Oh, you mean the screens you keep breaking :)

Sunday 22 November

01:01am David Cameron does indeed look just like the tromboning man in the Lurpak advert: <http://bit.ly/4QLHGU>

01:04am Don't know why Cliff Richard needs all those music royalties when he could make a killing selling these: <http://tinyurl.com/yejbs7s>

01:59am **@abscond** - methinks CSV rant wasted on CVS question.

02:00am **@abscond** - you're quite right though.

- 02:00am This picture makes me wonder whether religious leaders have home and away strips: <http://tinyurl.com/y9eu84a>
- 02:37am Thinking about an Android phone, but manufacturers seem to always customise it. They think they're adding value, while they remove it. Sigh.
- 01:43pm Hearing Cameron co-opting Blair's clarity phrases: 'I want to make that clear', 'Let me be clear about this', 'Politicians should be clear'.
- 01:47pm I find signing petitions difficult - I often disagree with the detail but support the sentiment. I don't need words put in my mouth. But...
- 02:21pm Signed the 3 strikes petition, though it makes no mention of collective punishment, privatisation of enforcement, corporate interests, etc.
- 02:23pm And I simply don't accept that the biggest argument against the bill is wifi hijacking. Seems a bit weak.
- 02:25pm And before anyone says "you should make your own petition", the strength of petitions is in collective action. Forking defeats them.
- 04:15pm Was going to read Telegraph Iraq scoop, then saw it was an Andrew Gilligan story. Will wait for balanced coverage, methinks.
- 07:45pm Anyone know how this story ended? <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/england/wiltshire/8246197.stm>
- 07:47pm The child can now stand up, all by himself and without support - which is probably more than can be said for his ageing parents. *#babysteps*
- 09:05pm **@kufena** - amazing - I couldn't find that story for searching. I was worried they were still lying down.
- 09:07pm Lying down people were reinstated. I wonder why I couldn't find that story earlier. Oh well, thanks **@kufena**. <http://tinyurl.com/ygyjj6a>
- 09:13pm I like the subheads in this article: 'Crucified frog' and 'Devil's work' <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/europe/8370683.stm>
- 09:20pm For all the shit the Sun gave Gordon Brown: <http://tinyurl.com/nefxsd> (and, for me, there's an inappropriate advert for beer underneath).
- 09:46pm Rush of support for the LibDems on reddit: <http://tinyurl.com/ye6mdkw>

- 10:29pm Was going to say "it's amazing how much clearer everything is with my glasses on." But it's not amazing is it? It's what you'd expect.
- 10:30pm @jaggeree - with you on that. Pathetic.

Monday 23 November

- 12:04am "How [they] came thus to prostitute their houses to the visitation ... upon pretence of searching for books, I cannot imagine" (Locke 1694)
- 12:05am The irony of Locke's essay on limits to copyright terms being unavailable on google books (due to copyright issues) is not lost on me.
- 01:08am Reading about the high number of programmers on government projects who have _never_ seen any line of code they've _ever_ written go live.
- 02:26am I think this bench/shop/pirate ship is ace. Not sure about the child kennel though: <http://tinyurl.com/yc2t36n>
- 02:47am Cornish megaliths have a 'natural non-slip surface.' Who knew? <http://tinyurl.com/ylerqvk>
- 03:43am Agile SDL. Ha ha ha. Guffaw. Snigger. No, really, not a joke. <http://tinyurl.com/ye734kr>
- 04:24pm Thinking of calling Google Wave either 'The Google Wave' or 'Google Waves' or 'The Google Waves'. Just to annoy @lazyatom
- 09:58pm Just saw an poster for Now That's What I Call Music ... 74. Seventy-goddamn-four. How old am I?
- 10:02pm I was expecting to be dead by the time they got around to releasing number 74. Have I accidentally travelled forward in time? This is 2009?
- 10:05pm No-one writes songs about spreadsheets. Which is a shame, since there are good rhymes - dead meat, head feet, red wheat, lead sweet.
- 10:14pm My new favourite wikipedia page: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_English_words_without_rhymes
- 11:27pm Wondering whether I've exceeded the maximum safe dosage of cheese footballs.

Tuesday 24 November

02:41pm Important to read this - the first person jailed under RIPA III 'no threat to national security': <http://tinyurl.com/yk5j726>

Wednesday 25 November

- 12:14am Oh dear, really? <http://blog.hunch.com/?p=10124> It's like 100 years of research in psychology and social science didn't happen.
- 12:25am Have heard that Transformers 2 is so bad that it redefines the medium of film. That makes it a must-buy in my book.
- 12:42am Would like to vomit: <http://www.microsoft.com/uk/publicsector/government/licensing/psa09-factfinder/default.aspx>
- 12:49am Thinking of raising a load of money, buying a 3d printer and starting an on-demand toyshop in London. Anyone with me?
- 12:58am **@emilicon** - am a bit drunk right now. But I was thinking the kids could design them. We need one of these, maybe: <http://tinyurl.com/cteq38>
- 12:59am **@emilicon** - they say it's a printer, but I think it's a magic toy factory. We'll paint it a different colour of course. Grey is for offices.
- 01:07am **@emilicon** - ooooh. Do you know anyone from there? I know nothing about this world, at all.
- 03:20am Just watched Paradox - was a bit like an episode of Casualty, played backwards with the inevitable accident at the end of the show.
- 03:34am Once I nearly died from anaphylaxis because my doctor didn't believe that the flu virus was incubated in eggs: <http://tinyurl.com/y88u7w6>
- 03:37am I should point out I'm strongly in favour of vaccination. 1 in a 1,000,000 vaccinations cause anaphylaxis - much less harm than the disease.
- 04:06am **@mrpatto** I don't think I had flu that winter, so probably yes. I don't see why it wouldn't have. Have avoided flu vaccines since, though.

- 09:07pm New York and Tokyo in 100 years. <http://www.dezeen.com/2009/11/25/aqualta-by-studio-lindfors/#more-52936>
- 09:46pm Tonight's collaborative interactive fiction extravaganza is 1983's Enchanter - join us here: <http://techbelly.campfirenow.com/49451>
- 11:14pm Awesome. H1N1 Swine flu vaccine questions and answers have never looked this good or been this clear: <http://tinyurl.com/yje2klf>

Thursday 26 November

- 12:40am "You pile of unfathomable cunts." Could they be talking about advertisers, perchance? <http://tinyurl.com/lkrevs> (via @jaggeree)
- 12:44am Excellent Neil Young parody: <http://tinyurl.com/ye8zmys> (via @mrpatto)
- 01:44am CCTV cameras cue threat perception: <http://bps-research-digest.blogspot.com/2009/11/cctv-cameras-dont-reassure-they.html> #stateoffear
- 03:14am Best review of Modern Warfare 2 I've seen: <http://tinyurl.com/yj3k9rd> Seems like the game is not for me.
- 04:18am One wonders what the BBC is up to here: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/blogs/peoplespolitician/> Why no RSS? Why nasty .aspx urls?
- 11:15am Good news: <http://monaxle.com/2009/11/25/arrest-the-latest/> Would be nice to think that all these small defeats will add up. Would be nice.
- 01:52pm "I know many of the best security people in the world, and none of them work for the British police." <http://tinyurl.com/y8jrnmo>
- 07:42pm One of the problems of the IP debates is the property/theft framing. Lewis Hyde's essay is excellent antidote: <http://tinyurl.com/4dypso>
- 07:50pm @robertbrook - surely they mean the 'vulture of Waltham Forest'. Which beast indeed needs dealing with.
- 07:56pm Ah yes, childbirth. All about the Dads, innit? <http://tinyurl.com/ylyt6zg> What naive idiots these Tories seem to be.
- 08:00pm @mikebutcher Ok, following!

- 08:14pm **@gpietersz** hard to say in 140 chars. But it's the odd spin on a story that is actually broader than I object to.
- 09:17pm **@gpietersz** I haven't been able to find any Uni of Warwick research - but I think he meant Worcester: <http://tinyurl.com/ylov7dr>
- 09:23pm **@serenamchugh** - I was just thinking "Wow. No more going to bed or jumper-wearing for me!"
- 09:44pm (Oops DM fail. Nothing to see, move along).
- 10:03pm "There is no way even a small amount of research would have backed up the statements made." <http://tinyurl.com/yllv3hu> **#bbcnewsfail**

Friday 27 November

- 01:09am 90% sure that this story is wrong. Should say University of Worcester and research was interviewing just 8 women <http://tinyurl.com/ybts35f>
- 01:10am Can't tell though, if Lansley's speech was misreported - can't find it online anywhere. But the error is repeated so it must be on the wire.
- 01:22am Looks like the Times got the story correct yesterday: <http://tinyurl.com/ybymkdo> Must be a mistake in the press release or on the newswire.
- 03:28am Imagine if you could only do planetary science by buying a license from Newton and Kepler Inc. <http://tinyurl.com/y8jv4hc>
- 03:33am Having said that, I believe there to be significant intellectual property in Tycho Brahe's moustache: <http://tinyurl.com/m73z4t>
- 03:44am If it weren't for patent protection, these people wouldn't have invented podcasting. Oh wait, they didn't. <http://tinyurl.com/yksum25>
- 04:25am How did this headline appear on an article that says "net migration was down over the year"? <http://tinyurl.com/ybtdoxe> (via **@currybet**)
- 05:59pm **@lukeredpath** - I had to use that card thing last night. I can't believe criminals are that keen to pay off my credit card bill.
- 06:05pm Spoken like a man whose salary comes from the CofE's substantial investments in shopping centres: <http://www.archbishopofcanterbury.org/2608>

- 06:12pm Oh my giddy aunt. I know I shouldn't get angry at BBC breakfast. But this is laughably empty: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/health/8382265.stm>
- 07:52pm Hey, it's ok. No-one in the 'creative' industries ever used free wifi anyway. F***** <http://bit.ly/4KcHJn> Thanks for ruining things.
- 07:55pm "Stephen Timms claimed that 99 percent of ISPs are "broadly supportive" of the measure". That was, um, a lie: <http://tinyurl.com/yjmpthb>
- 08:59pm I'm glad I don't drive. If you do though @twrc gives useful Italian driving tips: <http://tinyurl.com/yzqytf2>
- 09:20pm Nicholas Cage turned on the Xmas lights in Bath. Nicholas Cage. <http://tinyurl.com/y8kfg9n>
- 09:48pm I can't believe that any human can really parse java syntax these days: <http://tinyurl.com/yc2outq>
- 11:42pm It's been variously written that the colliding protons in the LHC have 'the same energy as a flying mosquito'. Doesn't really help me.
- 11:56pm "It must be a fairly geeky place to work. What does it smell like?" High quality journalism there, CNET. <http://tinyurl.com/ykjc43>

Saturday 28 November

- 12:28am Looks like piracy's killing TV too: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/media/2009/nov/27/tv-exports-rise-to-980m>
- 01:15am Chris Mullin - refreshing to hear from an MP who doesn't defend the current corrupt Westminster kleptocracy : <http://tinyurl.com/yeqfed9>
- 01:28am Eating an easy-to-peel, seedless clemantine. I no longer know who I am.
- 05:02am Free films from the BFI National Archive: <http://www.youtube.com/user/BFIfilms#g/u>
- 05:09am I reckon we must have been much cleverer in the 1970s to remember this: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_r1UiNZ3G4Y
- 08:16pm "Merry fucking Xmas, love Big Brother." New blog post: <http://www.techbelly.com/2009/11/28/merry-fucking-xmas-love-big-brother/>

- 08:32pm **@jodrell** - meant to tell you about this. Then I forgot:
<http://bitfieldconsulting.com/devops-curry> I might go next time.
- 09:20pm Now that the child will repeat things, we'd better stop naming his toys after relatives - "Tory Boy Will", for example, will have to change.
- 09:36pm **@jaggeree** - a wittier man would be able to make a joke about Wolfgang in sheep's clothing. Not I though.
- 09:39pm **@jaggeree** - ah for the shear joy of it!
- 09:44pm In my head - 'we will find it, we will bind it, we will stick it with glue glue glue'. Not as annoying as you'd think.
- 10:05pm **@threedaymonk** - you've seen this of course: <http://www.urbandictionary.com/define.php?term=Cross-eyed+Bear>

Sunday 29 November

- 12:28am **@tom_watson** - that Zac Goldsmith almost has as much money as the rest of the shadow cabinet put together...
- 01:48am Surely the leprechauns have something to say about this:
<http://tinyurl.com/y8u2t2k>

Monday 30 November

- 01:21am Asking government: if your filesharing wheeze works and people spend more on entertainment, what will they spend less on? No answer yet.
- 01:25am Might explode if I read another Dubai built-on-sand pun. NB: includes references to castles, tide going out, mirages... kthxbai.
- 04:10pm Somebody said to me "I'm in SEO/SEM" - ess eee owe slash ess eee em. Really. This is not right.
- 04:19pm **@twrc** - <http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2009/nov/30/italian-police-lamborghini> apropos your recent blog post
- 04:27pm Every so slightly creepy but fascinating high-speed x-ray of someone saying 'peony': <http://tinyurl.com/yck2rwe>
- 09:06pm Something very British in our Chief of Defence Staff's name being Sir Jock Stirrup. It was even funnier when he was Air Chief Marshal.

December

Tuesday 01 December

- 08:04am Dear Spotify, I have mp3s here of some of the songs I wish you had on your service. Shall I email them?
- 10:08am Inspector Sands at Old St.
- 08:08pm What an awful, awful load of utter misogynist nonsense. Shame on you Clothes Show Live, shame on you Daily Mail: <http://tinyurl.com/y96xomu>
- 08:25pm Remember this: <http://tinyurl.com/dbu8rx> All released without charge. And furthermore, <http://tinyurl.com/yln9bl6>
- 09:31pm **@robertbrook** - have created a **@beng/robertbrook** list just for you.

Wednesday 02 December

- 09:42pm **@kufena** - also Portillo is an oil man - before, during and after parliament he worked for Kerr McGee Oil.
- 09:44pm It seems not to be common knowledge that Portillo works for Kerr McGee Oil and has done for nearly 30 years, with a break for government.
- 09:46pm **@robertbrook** - <http://www.highbeam.com/doc/1G1-141542148.html>
- 09:47pm Oh, and <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/portillo-apologises-for-not-declaring-oil-company-link-721529.html>
- 09:57pm Don't know why everyone hates Transformers 2 - if you like big robots fighting, throwing and smashing stuff and robots, it's pretty good.
- 10:00pm "There ought to be a word for the kind of stories that sound like the Daily Mail invented them." <http://tinyurl.com/yk8oafe>
- 10:01pm **@chrisroos** - one day, you might need this: <http://www.hse.gov.uk/myth/jun09.pdf>
- 10:05pm **@threedaymonk** - Me too. I think the chained-to-the-big-wheel scene (ah! he's all grown up) is a flawless cinematic gem.

10:30pm Finally: <http://bit.ly/4v8mky> Now they need to sack the f***ers who were in charge.

Thursday 03 December

12:28am Laughing to read someone using big-endian as an example of alienating tech jargon. It's from Swift, idiot, Gulliver's Travels. #greenink

12:30am I'm perhaps being a little harsh - it's from an eighties computer mag so the journo couldn't google it or look it up on wikipedia...

06:07pm @floehopper - sure you've seen this: <http://thedryvalleys.wordpress.com/>

07:23pm My favourite Zappa song on Last.fm but not on Spotify :(http://www.last.fm/music/Frank+Zappa/_/Electric+Aunt+Jemima

07:24pm Correction - only a 30s preview on Last.fm. Bah, it's on bittorrent. Go figure.

07:29pm @currybet - I like Pukka - also keeps a local cache of all your bookmarks. Just in case of Magnolia. <http://codesorcery.net/pukka> (Mac only)

07:32pm @jodrell - ooh. was just thinking about that very pub a couple of days ago.

07:58pm Fuzzy dice and bongos.

08:24pm What has happened to toptable.com - can no longer use it. Front page form broken on a mac?

08:25pm Oh I see, can't enter a postcode in the location field. How lame.

09:19pm This is pretty wonderful: <http://www.collegehumor.com/video:1925693> Cookie Monster sings Rammstein.

09:29pm Photographers' rights heard in Lords, debate to continue in 2010 <http://bit.ly/5MhJBF> [British Journal of Photography] (via @digiconbill)

09:51pm "Haven't got the idea, haven't got the idea, haven't got the idea, haven't the idea, GOT THE IDEA!" <http://tinyurl.com/y85aqa6>

09:57pm @cv How about "I need you to help me choose my dead mother's bathing gear"?

11:45pm "New Labour's only really "big idea" for the internet is to police more rigorously how people use it." <http://tinyurl.com/yjsj39d>

Friday 04 December

01:13am It's really, really simple. These bonuses are not monies that bankers have earned. They are monies that ordinary people have paid in tax.

01:32am "Technology has done what technology does, and changed the world without anyone's permission or approval."
<http://tinyurl.com/ycexn64>

01:51am What if *#digitaleconomy* had given streaming services a strong legal right to stream any song provided they paid PRS rates? Just saying.

01:57am Same with, e.g. iTunes- the state gives copyright protection to the Beatles; in turn they should have to provide their music for sale.

02:25am Is it really 16 years since Zappa died? Me and my mate Kevin drank a bottle of whisky each and nearly died of hypothermia to Freak Out!

02:28am Zappa's Bobby Brown - I used to busk this - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w8y0JLPQl94>

03:47am **@jodrell** - gute reise!

05:01am Properly silly picture selection by the Daily Mail <http://yfrog.com/4gj2hhj> <http://tinyurl.com/yk96nx7>

05:08am **@threedaymonk** - he only has it so he can pour it away while they stare wistfully into the distance.

05:14am This has more to do with the Torygraph's nosediving quality of journalism than Tory idiocy, but still: <http://tinyurl.com/ycfnlxq>

05:23am I really thought that we'd moved on from blaming women for being raped. Hope the Metro is mis-stating this: <http://tinyurl.com/yzqpeth>

05:28am Excellent news for veggies and would-be cannibals: <http://tinyurl.com/yh9qxqd>

05:46am Have never really seen a justificatory page like this on a website: <http://www.poverty.org.uk/summary/technical.shtml> Odd.

- 05:58am **@threedaymonk** 'the resulting page cannot be viewed on a standard PC prior to its uploading, as the merging can only be done by a web server'
- 04:03pm Reading between the lines in the copyright debate, I wonder what the government is hiding from us. Perhaps a global bit shortage looms.
- 05:19pm "Oh yeah? So where are the pigs?" <http://www.davidicke.com/content/view/26440> Bonkers, but broad-reaching.
- 07:15pm Really annoying to follow an amazon link and end up on the .com and not the .co.uk - also denies folks their affiliate payments. Bah.
- 08:54pm Getting chilly. Put on a jumper, or just start Google Wave and use CPU as heater?
- 09:08pm **@jamesandrews** - I'd heard it was something to do with hopscotch or a similar playground game.
- 09:30pm When I used to make tapes, my edits were much better than the iPlayer's - programme doesn't start until 1 minute 8 seconds in. Why?

Saturday 05 December

- 01:01am Number 2312 in my list of everything I like getting bought by someone and turned to shit. This time, EtherPad.
<http://tinyurl.com/y8jocr7>
- 01:06am "Yahoo charges the government about \$30 to \$40 for the contents of a subscriber's account" <http://tinyurl.com/ylrpfgp>
- 01:58am Ownership is very much intuitive - being licensed not so much: <http://dlewis.net/2009/12/01/what-does-it-mean-to-buy-an-e-book/>
- 02:00am By Cthulhu, this might be the perfect gift for the child: <http://tinyurl.com/5t5rml> (or maybe not)
- 02:54am Checking out the 'ideas for reusing you empty drum' on this drum of cheese footballs - bah, need 3 drums for the Disc Wizard game described.
- 02:57am It seems feasible that this is how the zombie apocalypse starts: <http://tinyurl.com/ykuxm7z> (via **@renduh**)
- 03:49am There's something wrong with society at large when the Police service describe themselves as 'market leaders'.
<http://tinyurl.com/yfms84>

06:14am Still funny and true: <http://www.theonion.com/content/node/28441>

Sunday 06 December

- 03:03am "The de facto purpose of the [DNA] database has shifted and should now be ... constrained in primary legislation" <http://tinyurl.com/yaa9aqw>
- 01:27pm "Viewing Mandy's approach to the Net is like watching a monkey fiddling with a delicate chronometer." <http://tinyurl.com/yhaygky>
- 04:14pm I wish the commentariat would realise that the issue isn't class, it's that the shadow cabinet come from the thinnest sliver of society.
- 05:38pm Had no idea that Bellenden is a part of Peckham. Bell End. Snigger Snigger. It has notable bollards too - <http://tinyurl.com/yjg6lu5>
- 08:32pm Rather excellent bit of Stewart Lee: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0IE0kSZmW6g>

Monday 07 December

- 06:23pm Seems like buses are like interesting projects - wait three years for one and then three come along at once.
- 06:27pm Good news for Swindon! <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/england/wiltshire/8399996.stm>
- 10:47pm Record label head resigns to oppose Digital Economy Bill <http://bit.ly/7X3xC7> [Paul] *#debill* via *@digiconbill* (wow).
- 10:49pm "I don't want to talk about it over the phone because of data protection." I'm sure that only applies to robots. <http://tinyurl.com/y9qq98j>
- 10:52pm Optimists scare the livin' bejeezus out of me.

Tuesday 08 December

- 01:47am I don't think anyone **really** wants strict, automatic enforcement of copyright, eh? <http://tinyurl.com/yflpzf3>
Can of worms.

- 01:59am **@oneplusi** - I see your Tolkein and raise you a Milton:
<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Areopagitica> oneplusi
- 02:00am **@oneplusiphoto** - I see your Tolkein and raise you
 a Milton: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Areopagitica>
 oneplusiphoto
- 02:12am The worst book that the child makes us read is 'Honey
 Hill's Noisy Day'. It's like One Flew Over the Cuckoo's
 Nest with animals. *#babysteps*
- 02:14am Am in charge of the child's bedtime tomorrow. Must
 remember to hide the bedtime story books I don't like.
#babysteps
- 02:22am This is the one - <http://www.honeyhillfun.com/> -
 frightening.
- 08:29pm Just nodded off on the child's bedroom floor while singing
 him to sleep. My lullabies are awesome. *#babysteps*
- 08:30pm **@robertbrook** - nope, fast asleep. Damn, I'm good.
- 08:33pm Big cup of coffee. Let's see how my web-scrappers are
 doing. Fly, my pretties, fly...
- 08:45pm Just found out our neighbours have had twins. I will be
 in trouble for knowing this before the wife does. Hmm.
 Dilemma.
- 10:48pm **@threedaymonk** - yeah, but you can prove anything
 with facts, right? <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4n-UGQcG3Jw>
- 10:51pm **@delineator** - here you go. [http://www.youtube.com/
 watch?v=kQhhrzHKMhI&feature=related](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kQhhrzHKMhI&feature=related)

Wednesday 09 December

- 01:35am **@rlivsey** - I commit to building a time machine every year.
 My future self would come back to help me if I were ever
 going to succeed.
- 12:35pm It's not an advert, it's news. Really. It can't be an advert
 because it's on the BBC. <http://tinyurl.com/y1bjeu2> See,
 logic.
- 05:57pm Nice thing about working from home - available for the
 odd cuddle, but way too busy to change dirty nappies.
- 11:06pm Lib Dem MP dismisses the whole internet as 'tittle tattle':
<http://tinyurl.com/y9b8fz4> Worth listening to to hear the
 disdain in his voice.

- 11:11pm "The main story in today's Cambridge News is that the letter "N" has been painted the wrong way round on one of the guided bus signs."
- 11:11pm There we go: <http://www.cambridge-news.co.uk/cn%5Fnews%5Fhome/DisplayArticle.asp?ID=469863>
Worth a public subsidy to find out that?
- 11:16pm "Milton Keynes Council's Website is hugely used!" Huh?
<http://www.portalconstructor.co.uk/add-home/>

Thursday 10 December

- 11:37am "Raise the top rate of income tax (and/or capital gains) gradually, year on year, until bankers began to leave."
<http://tinyurl.com/ydoj3sa>
- 11:45am My MP is so wrong on the olympics: <http://tinyurl.com/ye4sn4o> Like many young families with kids, we use the park and don't want it closed.
- 12:31pm Is it possible to design a poll to find out how many people lie to pollsters?
- 12:39pm **@gpietersz** indeed, but I don't think those Smullyan-type questions are much use outside logic games. Any real-world ideas?
- 05:06pm Reckon I have enough scraped government data on my laptop to run the country from any old starbucks.
- 11:47pm You know when there's a mailing list. And there's one person that always answers and starts threads. And that person is a plonker. Sigh.
- 11:55pm **@lukeredpath** - did the BBC mention Portillo's directorship of an oil company this time?

Friday 11 December

- 12:01am Anyone going to mention that until very recently Portillo was a director of Kerr - McGee oil company? *#thisweek*
- 12:23am **@edwardclarke** my understanding was that Kerr-McGee had been chopped up and sold on. Maybe he's still a director though.
- 12:38am **@edwardclarke** He's entitled to his views - though I think he's wrong. But shame on the BBC for not declaring his interests in this.

- 04:32pm I'm not alone in thinking the Digital Economy Bill is a trojan horse: <http://bit.ly/8hQZ4a> I wrote about that here: <http://bit.ly/62Xebq>
- 05:04pm **@threedaymonk** - presumably they'll wear brown shirts. The article mentions they'll have 'extra eyes and ears' - is that normal in Norwich?
- 05:19pm **@megpickard** - but if everyone starts saying BLOG POST, how will we be able to spot the clueless f***wits?
- 10:23pm PEHDTSCCKJMBA <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EOrG1r3S6ZA>

Saturday 12 December

- 12:22am **@floehopper** - um, me too.
- 08:19am Bah - have failed at predictable first hurdle. No apple dongle for Liz's MacBook. Yipeekiyay, motherf...
@rubymanor
- 08:24am Global warming, my arse. It's freezing. And early. And gloamy.

Sunday 13 December

- 11:16am "Every time [your bank] needs a bail out, a random selection of your management team will be taken out and shot." <http://tinyurl.com/y8qlcyd>
- 07:11pm Marking as spam all the desperate 'buy from us, it's christmas' emails. Won't these guys ever learn. This includes you, Amazon.
- 09:36pm **@tom_watson** - no-one's taken MySQL away from anyone. That's the magic of FOSS. There is an anti-competitive angle, but that's all I think.
- 10:44pm Reading 'successfully installed hoe-2.4.0' and sharing a smidgeon of **@lazyatom**'s righteous **@rubymanor** rage.

Monday 14 December

- 12:43am **@grahamashton** Gosh. Your post makes me seem almost coherent. Lovely.

- 01:12am Detailed write-up of my 'Short order ruby' **@rubymenor** talk by **@grahamashton** : <http://effectif.com/ruby/manor/short-order-ruby>
- 01:48am Shall I write arsey email 'dear developer, love your project, have you forgotten to check in the tests?'
- 04:56am Bankers, advertisers and tax accountants. First against the wall when the revolution comes: <http://bit.ly/8pklth>
- 12:21pm Would it be wrong to go round to my DIY-obsessed neighbour and batter him to death with his own hammer? Probably. Please, stop doing DIY.
- 12:25pm Hmm, if that noise is indeed someone battering the neighbour to death with his own hammer, my previous tweet makes me suspect no. 1.
- 03:47pm **@tomtaylor** - Well, it's the DLR stop in Greenwich. Unless you've got one of those special 19th century tea-clipper cards.
- 03:58pm **@currybet** that's exactly what they want you to think...
- 05:58pm All crossword apps are rubbish. Seems crosswords are a paper thing. What's the crossword equivalent for the iPhone as a medium?
- 07:26pm RT: **@kerryb** - Already used one of **@beng**'s "Short Order Ruby" tips at work today, easily paying back the £8 cost of *#rubymenor*.
- 07:28pm **@kufena** - put what I put: "Government work: details available on production of security clearance".
- 08:50pm Find it odd that these folks were smart enough to steal billions, but not smart enough to hide out forever. <http://tinyurl.com/yaadpym>
- 10:20pm <http://tinyurl.com/yegwbnh> This ad cesspool must be cleaned. The child's swimming classes are sponsored by Kelloggs. None of this is good.
- 10:21pm <http://tinyurl.com/yegwbnh> Funny too how the internet gets blamed. It's not the internet, it's the morally-corrupt CEOs of these companies.
- 10:24pm Advertising is a net cost - the advertisers spend money on you here, to extract more money from you there. There's no net social benefit.
- 10:33pm I dread the corporate advertising onslaught that our kids will have to endure from the blasted olympics.

Tuesday 15 December

- 01:55am **@jrep** - I don't understand this story at all. He sold the commercial rights? And now he's changed his mind? It's not about forking, right?
- 11:57am "We are still not able to control the sun." The Express does climate science: <http://www.dailyexpress.co.uk/posts/view/146139> (or not)
- 12:29pm The MySQL/Oracle dance does at least show that the GPL is no bar to copyright holders creating tradeable value in software. No?
- 02:34pm Whoops. The child threw the wife's contact lenses into the toilet. How adorable. *#babysteps*
- 02:36pm Just made rookie scripting mistake - if only I'd listened to my own talk on Saturday.
- 09:14pm Wow. Wow. Wowwww. Astronauts seen with backyard telescope. <http://www.wired.com/wiredscience/2009/12/a-spacewalk-as-seen-from-earth/>
- 11:10pm "Make your presentation social media-friendly by expressing each of your points as a tweetbite." I'd rather die. <http://tinyurl.com/ydc37b3>
- 11:17pm Don't mean to be an arse, Wired UK, but a 'third century' castle in the UK? You mean 13th, right? <http://tinyurl.com/ydf8cud>
- 11:22pm Being pedantic with myself now - the channel islands are dependencies and not part of the UK. Did I not read that tweet before sending?

Wednesday 16 December

- 12:29am **@lukeredpath** - "why does it hurt when", "does it hurt" are also concerning.
- 12:54am Updating <http://mps.monstermischief.com> - a free-to-use list of Westminster MPs on twitter.
- 01:49am As far as I can tell, there are 115 Westminster MPs on twitter. Free-to-use list here <http://mps.monstermischief.com>
- 02:50am I don't know how anyone can ship an AIR app without being embarrassed about its awful font display. Non-native just sucks.

- 02:54am ... I mean, this is Adobe right - the people used to be synonymous with publishing. Look at this: <http://yfrog.com/1yffyp>
- 03:00am Nothing says 'hey user, I hate you' like an AIR application in which the mouse scroll wheel doesn't work. Please stop making these. Please.
- 12:54pm Ah yes, you're quite right - **@johnmcdonnellmp** not a legit account - so, 113 Westminster MPs on twitter: <http://mps.montermischief.com>
- 07:13pm Bloomsbury theatre - "9 lessons and carols for godless people" here we come.

Thursday 17 December

- 12:05am "Alexei Sayle is sitting behind us" The wife: "I don't know who that is." Generational gap. Perhaps.
- 12:06am Did enjoy Alan Moore, Stewart Lee, Brian Cox, John Otway, Robin Ince, **@bengoldacre** et al. <http://www.thebloomsbury.com/event/run/1363>
- 02:14pm http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Association_of_Autonomous_Astronauts
- 02:30pm **@twrc** - bring back memories? <http://video.google.com/videoplay?docid=7885510223794354242#> I see you at 4:13
- 07:23pm <http://tinyurl.com/ya2bqyv> This spam problem is half down to google; and half to all the sites that are spammy but think they're not.
- 07:50pm Two of the top 10 chrome extensions are ad-blockers: <http://tinyurl.com/yk4jkgz> Not a surprise.
- 09:09pm If only all bank websites were this good: <http://tinyurl.com/ye4x44n>
- 11:06pm **@robertbrook** - I believe 'team building' is an anagram of 'imitable dung'. I worked that out in a team building session once, on my own.
- 11:19pm **@nevali** - just wait until these kind of folks can get your internet switched off. Oh boy.

Friday 18 December

- 01:15am "It is a short, strong word; it rhymes to 'breeze' and 'seas'"
G K Chesterton on the neglect of cheese in literature.
<http://bit.ly/7bXPPM>
- 02:22pm @jodrell have been sat on train for half an hour - don't
think we're going to be able to meet :(

Saturday 19 December

- 12:44pm The Ladybird Book of Chiropractic Treatment and
English Libel Law: <http://tinyurl.com/ydykay4>
- 07:39pm If Kurt Cobain were alive, I'm sure he'd be writing songs
along the lines of 'smells like Milton sterilising solution'.
- 07:45pm Have developed an email writing style with which most
automated spam filters think me a machine.
- 08:58pm Packaging systems be damned: `scp -r ben@192.168.1.1:/usr/local /usr/local`
- 09:06pm Sales bloke in Apple Store today asked me how long had I
been using macs. Told him. "That's longer than I've been
alive!" Felt old.
- 10:11pm Am pretty sure that every tightening of the copyright
regime has the net effect of taking money from creators
and giving it to lawyers.
- 11:22pm Just remembering: the child thought it was hilarious this
morning to wake me up by banging my head with a glass
tankard. #babysteps
- 11:30pm "Dodging "bullets" that come at the speed of light is no
way to live long and prosper." <http://tinyurl.com/yefg3je>
Important stuff here.

Sunday 20 December

- 12:31am I hate Vodafone Mobile Connect - all I want is a driver
through which I can connect. Not a bloody application.
- 12:32am Thinking: this is not the first time that everything someone
touts as a feature is another reason for me to hate the
program they've made.

- 12:33am 88Mb and a system restart to install a modem driver that was already bloody there on my ubuntu netbook. Apple, Vodafone sort it out.
- 12:36am Vodafone Mobile Connect is like a work of art - it sums up everything that I dislike about the phone networks in one application.
- 12:56am Have stopped NML2NDeviceObserver.app running - installed by Vodafone Mobile Connect. Not required to connect - assuming it to be malware.
- 02:06am **@robinince** we really enjoyed Wednesday's show. Just saying. Looking forward to podcasts.
- 02:40am Very excellent playgrounds: <http://playgrounddesigns.blogspot.com/2009/11/monstrum-playgrounds.html>
- 06:04am **@tom_watson** - yesterday morning: <http://twitter.com/beng/status/6842774332>
- 03:09pm Strongly feeling my hatred and fear of phones today. Wish the whole world was happy with IM.
- 03:14pm Have been busy removing DRM from everything I own - nearly DRM-free. Not a pirate, just an ordinary user, ok?
- 03:23pm Am really pleased I've collected together all these tweets about the child: <http://friendfeed.com/search?q=%23babysteps+from%3Atecbelly>
- 03:25pm Turns out that the main cost of having a child is replacing and repairing broken laptops. *#babysteps*
- 03:41pm I don't understand why coverage of the CofE's homophobia has been so gentle - no other institution would get away with being so bigoted.
- 03:46pm As someone who doodles and doodles and doodles - this is interesting research: <http://bit.ly/7dQlg4>
- 04:42pm **@jodrell** Oh no. We're off to Cornwall on Tuesday. Our next chance will be in the new year, I guess.
- 04:44pm *#RATM* are like the 21st century equivalent of Joe Dolce (don't worry, you're probably not old enough to remember).
- 07:33pm Projects a pro image, takes wads of cash, then turns out he's screwed everybody. Seems Tiger's a *perfect* face for Accenture. (via **@kerryb**)
- 07:54pm Sony's stumbled upon a way to commodify your discontent *#ratm* - maybe the record industry doesn't need me anymore? (via **@digiconbill**)

- 08:35pm Keeping an eye on this story - smells fishy. <http://bit.ly/6SrJqi> No terror prosecution, arrested for immigration issues, no known links.
- 08:44pm **@threedaymonk** - and... how on earth do you make money buying stuff in the UK and exporting it to Algeria?
- 09:53pm Second and probably last hair cut of 2009 done. Head will be cold tomorrow.
- 10:46pm Aargh - scary skinhead in the garden! Oh no, it's just my reflection. Might have shaved off a bit too much hair.
- 11:31pm Investigating Sugar on a Stick - <http://www.sugarlabs.org/>

Monday 21 December

- 04:06am Had not heard of this: wikireader <http://thewikireader.com/index.html> Interesting.

Tuesday 22 December

- 12:18am Oh, FFS. Public transport subsidy is ~4bn or £160 per household. Plus a ~£500/household in fares. While Ave. household spends ~£2700 on cars
- 12:23am Transport subsidy is collected through tax - most people don't pay that much. With cars however the ave. spend is close to the lower limit.
- 01:26am Dead-drop: send a link to a map/streetview and say something like: 'it's hidden where we first met, behind the pillar-box'. Please make it.
- 01:29am You know, for sharing documents and so on.
- 02:28am "We believe this latest execution will deliver significant cut-through ahead of Christmas." Um. WTF? <http://tinyurl.com/y86sw3s>

Wednesday 23 December

- 09:51am Weird being in a house where having the TV on is the default state. No longer understand that.
- 10:15am I should be a big fan of straightstatistics.org - but, it's just not very good. <http://bit.ly/5sYp46> Is this variation really significant?

- 01:45pm Hmm - find out if your friends a) buy a lot of porn b) eat a lot of burgers or c) are taking mistresses to the theatre. <http://blippy.com/>
- 01:48pm Oh Sony, "NaN:NaN remaining / -1% complete". Can't program much?
- 01:52pm "Dwarfs were particularly popular as pets, but some 'giants' were also allowed." Jesters, fools and dancing girls. <http://bit.ly/6ILlId>
- 01:56pm If the agents of the state saw me struggle with OpenOffice they'd conclude I lack 'key skills' and I'd be marched into remedial school.
- 02:05pm Anyone think change in government will mean a change in IT procurement? <http://bit.ly/7nRcIM> Plus ça change.
- 02:10pm RT **@threedaymonk**: I love the hashtags on this Eurostar-related tweet: <http://twitter.com/Olivelah/statuses/6964907397>
- 02:17pm Not sure if I trust my accountant - he puts his name at the bottom of letters in a Comic-Sans-like font and pretends its a signature.
- 02:23pm "The magical myth of the MBA has for some time left the facts behind. " <http://bit.ly/8BW0n1> "High time for spivs and villains" on the way.
- 03:10pm Waterstone's : hardback £10.99 ebook £17.47. So much for the digital economy. Legislate that, Mandelson.
- 04:00pm **@threedaymonk** that's almost as big as their 'teach your pet sign language' section!
- 08:55pm For once my machine isn't going slowly because of Flash - it's going slowly because of AIR. Sod you Adobe, your software sucks.
- 09:24pm Dead-drop: want to send a link to a streetview and for example, hide a present 'where we first met, behind the pillarbox'. Anyone made this?
- 09:30pm **@threedaymonk** - was thinking that they'd have to hunt it down on Streetview. So the lat/lon/orientation become a sort of password.
- 09:32pm **@hlame** - amazing, I'd forgot we already made it!
- 09:53pm "When the numbers rise, I've seen everyone in the company... attributing that rise to whatever they were working on." <http://bit.ly/4Hw8sV>

- 10:34pm **@lukeredpath** New Macbook Pros, for sure. I've never bought a macbook without apple releasing a better one the next month. Just bought one.
- 11:34pm Didn't take long for Google's blog search to become mired with spammy commercial blogs. Now almost totally useless to me.

Thursday 24 December

- 12:45am First impressions of Sony eReader - nice hardware, rubbish software. Will be writing lots of scripts, methinks.
- 12:50am Can't they just go away? We don't go to their churches, so f*** off out of our schools. <http://bit.ly/8yB2K4>
- 01:49pm **@jodrell** - only has 4 buttons. On-screen UI seems OK, if obviously not brilliant.
- 01:51pm **@danlucraft** I bought an iliad when they first came out, the size of the screen I think is an overrated feature, especially for novels.
- 01:55pm Unpaid internship seems to me the most regressive of business practices - If they're working, they should be paid.
- 02:04pm **@jodrell** - most of them are. If you've a contract, written or not, you'd be classed a 'worker'. I think there's also a charities exemption.
- 02:24pm **@danlucraft** Not for me, though I see what you're saying. I read novels on it.
- 07:49pm I happen to think you're arrogant f***wits if you think that sending out a mailshot from your company on Xmas Eve is just the ticket.
- 08:06pm **@hlame, @lazyatom** Alien 8

Saturday 26 December

- 12:42am Oh FFS Apple, just let me drag the f***ing movie files to the f***ing movie folder on the iPhone. Definitely pissed off with this phone.
- 02:45pm Child had great fun this morning dribbling a ball around and around the dining table and crawling underneath to retrieve it. *#babysteps*

03:16pm Did this ruby convention of tools that generate a skeleton project start with Rails' rails command? Either way, I find it rude these days.

Sunday 27 December

08:39pm According to wikipedia, "there is no credible evidence to support the theory of Nazi spacecraft". So there you go.
<http://bit.ly/5aig3T>

Tuesday 29 December

07:57pm The child is pretty sure that cats are the same thing as monkeys. Who am I to argue. *#babysteps*

09:02pm These were on sale in pretty much all the shops in Kingsbridge today. Like a big badge saying 'Idiot' <http://www.phoneshield.co.uk/index.htm>

09:03pm Will be writing to trading standards about them when I get back to London. <http://www.phoneshield.co.uk/index.htm>

10:59pm Learning that creating genetic material that matches to a known DNA database profile is as easy as finding an MD5 collision. Scary thought.

Wednesday 30 December

10:46pm Away from home. Wish I had my soldering iron, have new toys to play with. This happens a lot.

11:02pm **@jodrell** - one of these <http://bit.ly/5H8IeQ> Weather boring though. Want to use sensors as controllers for gaming.

11:18pm **@jodrell** - separate.

January

Friday 01 January

- 08:29pm Reading that a James Blunt album was the noughties' biggest seller. Pop's now like politics will be - bland center ground and lots of edges.
- 10:33pm I wish I could just buy a bandwidth upgrade for my parents' house. Just for when I'm here and even the internet seems far, far away...
- 11:16pm You wouldn't get a LISP comment like this on the BBC's Have Your Say filthboard: <http://bit.ly/5wWgtP>
- 11:31pm 25 Blasphemous quotes and a number of, frankly, disturbing comments: <http://bit.ly/5mT9Xg>

Saturday 02 January

- 12:07am UK Government, disappointed that non-white UK citizens aren't sufficiently alienated, announces new alienate strategy: <http://bit.ly/84np1x>
- 12:53am Reminds me of when @jodrell and I nearly made a death ray out of a couple of microwaves and some chicken wire. <http://bit.ly/4EVH1Z>
- 01:00am The unix cal tool is very useful, especially around the new year. Here's a little programming challenge based on it: <http://bit.ly/8DY07p>
- 02:29am Hmm. I've paid for this ebook and it has lots of OCR errors in it. I guess they don't proofread them - publishers, my arse.
- 10:16am Reading that Sharepoint development will be the 'hot job' in 2010. What a miserable world we live in.
- 10:18am Buy letters from old signs. Make new ones. Nice. <http://www.kidimo.com/index.php?page=tous-les-mots>
- 10:33am It's a shame that Tim Harford - the undercover economist - writes in the ft. I'd link to him more if he didn't cower behind a paywall.
- 12:28pm Now that the child's hair is growing, he looks less like a young Lex Luthor. #babysteps

- 12:45pm It's weird to want one of these muscle and bone printers, right? http://www.popularmechanics.com/blogs/science_news/4205063.html
- 12:46pm rt **@frabcus** : NY resolution: Ignore any articles without references. It's Monbiot and Wikipedia until the newspapers sort themselves out.
- 12:49pm Rumsfeld's 'known knowns' is the daft quote of the decade - I'm obviously the only person in the world who thought it made a lot of sense.
- 10:35pm Really enjoyed Avatar in 3D - seriously spectacular, even if the plot was paper thin and the characters empty, it's a trip. Go see it.

Sunday 03 January

- 12:07am Gosh, the Telegraph's standards continue to sink lower. Good to see them picked up here by the provost of UCL: <http://bit.ly/8hAPmF>
- 01:01pm Akin's Laws of Spacecraft Design: http://spacecraft.ssl.umd.edu/akins_laws.html (via **@brunns**)
- 05:52pm This is a fantastic Daily Mail story: <http://bit.ly/8mdapL> I love that they're quoting an American weather forecaster called Joe Bastardi.

Monday 04 January

- 01:00am **@kufena** Wow. From now on, just call me Aardvark.
- 11:07am Heading back towards civilisation. Child asleep. Train pleasantly empty. All is good.
- 04:49pm As I mark another recruiter's email spAM
- 08:20pm This pretty much sums up the plot of Avatar: <http://imgur.com/JmRmb>
- 08:32pm After watching this, pretty sure that America doesn't really exist: <http://tinyurl.com/yechrul> Amazing.
- 08:37pm This article is so arse-about-tip: <http://tinyurl.com/yahogvn> They're trying to create a standard to prevent interoperability with DRM.

Tuesday 05 January

- 12:34am There's no time to waste in saving the dying music industry. Two record years in a row. <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/entertainment/8439963.stm>
- 01:13am Oh Cthulhu! <http://www.zbrushcentral.com/showthread.php?t=078704>
- 01:20am Useful - readable aliases for ruby's perlish \$* globals. <http://github.com/shyouhei/ruby/blob/trunk/lib/English.rb>
- 02:46pm Big David Cameron poster looming over Islington. "Look into my pasty face, ye mighty, and despair". Seriously, Cameron's face?
- 04:54pm I take it all back. @TimHarford is less undercover than I thought: <http://timharford.com> Promise to follow and share.
- 05:23pm Reading the Tories NHS manifesto. Um. Bizarre: 'less political interference' yet 'more attention from government'. Huh?
- 09:24pm Back from impromptu A&E trip with very tired and coldy child. He's wheezing much less now though.
- 11:07pm @jodrell - that last tweet came out wrong in at least three ways.

Wednesday 06 January

- 11:06am Little boy back into hospital this morning. Going home for an hour's sleep in anticipation of a long night.
- 07:08pm Back from hospital, they're keeping the child in overnight but they're think he'll be able to come home tomorrow. Lemsip and bed for me.

Friday 08 January

- 01:25pm Oh yes, this is the appropriate response to Cameron's 'look at my big pasty face' poster: <http://mydavidcameron.com/>
- 01:45pm I cannot vote for a government that supports this divisive anti-secular nonsense: <http://tinyurl.com/ydfpbpc> And advice on climate change?

- 02:06pm "Choose a high church if you enjoy colour, music and liturgical action." Um, thanks BBC. What is this rubbish?
<http://tinyurl.com/yaav8zs>
- 02:20pm Reading this: <http://www.growing-object-oriented-software.com/> Impressed so far, though I still suffer from recurrent java fear. *#goos*
- 02:36pm I do believe that having S4C instead of Channel 4 left Wales more socially conservative than England. Can't imagine TV has that reach now.
- 03:23pm Easiest way to search github to find a commit accepted to another project many moons ago - I no longer have a fork of the project?
- 03:48pm **@robertbrook** - you're entitled to chew matches if you can light them on your stubble. Be careful, aftershave or hair-gel => fireball head.
- 03:52pm **@floehopper** - grep to the rescue. Ruby *#goos* looks intriguing, but what no mocha?
- 04:05pm Waiting for the dryer to finish before delivering a load of washing to wife and child - looks like they'll be in the hospital again tonight.
- 04:10pm I find it hard to take seriously lists of the best films of the decade unless they have both The Lives of Others and Anchorman in the top 3.
- 07:25pm Conservatives, irony: <http://www.bbdo.co.uk/blog/archives/2200>
- 07:30pm Oh Gilligan, I was with you, agreeing, fuming alongside you and then you lose me with a Kim Il-Sung reference: <http://tinyurl.com/ygajtl2>
- 08:52pm It's taken me 10 years to get back to the same place, I think: <http://static.userland.com/userLandDiscussArchive/msg010273.html>
- 08:55pm Boy I'm old - I was debugging XML-RPC stuff on the day mySQL was open sourced. <http://www.scripting.com/1999/08/29.html>
- 08:56pm **@robertbrook** - I'm digging into my past, because we have shared heroes. What a great post you wrote.
- 10:02pm If you went back in time, and wanted to astound people with your knowledge of the heavens... <http://tinyurl.com/yb63wxh> (or not).
- 10:04pm **@threedaymonk** - somewhere there's probably a small green frog who can now talk like you.

Saturday 09 January

- 08:54am Am renouncing atheism on the basis of this Daily Mail reader's hairloss proof: <http://tinyurl.com/y9fx9hj> It starts 'How many scientists...'
- 12:20pm The child's in good spirits, but his oxygen levels are still dropping as he sleeps. Another night in the hospital. Missing him and the wife.
- 12:29pm **@kufena** - part of me's just a bit jealous. Imagine how much fun it would be to have a brain that worked like that. The world would be magic.
- 05:50pm Pretty sure all my toes are about to fall off. So much for global warming.
- 06:52pm **@robertbrook** - that story used to scare me senseless. Eyes as big as mill wheels. Shiver.
- 06:53pm Portal kitty: <http://fuckyeahdementia.tumblr.com/post/319225867/portal-kitty-via> (via **@cv**)
- 10:18pm **@threedaymonk** - ask **@jodrell**, it's his daily commute (in reverse). I think he's been stranded at home this week.
- 10:30pm Pairing up lots of socks that are of very similar patterns and colours, but not quite identical. Really hard to care.
- 10:46pm Seems like one could objectively test if the Tory party is the party of the rich: <http://tinyurl.com/ybsadqd>
- 10:51pm Polls suggest jurors trust DNA evidence (easily faked and planted) over eye-witness testimony. And now this: <http://tinyurl.com/yjy6qqn>
- 10:53pm And, of course, the Shirley McKie fingerprint case should give us general cause to worry: <http://www.shirleymckie.com/facts.htm>
- 10:58pm **@threedaymonk** yes, that's certainly true, I think the point is that DNA evidence can be equally speculative but presented as fact.
- 11:00pm **@threedaymonk** - it's undoubtedly a useful investigative tool, but it's the forensic use that I think is dangerous.

Sunday 10 January

- 08:23pm **@samnewman** see **@chneukirchen**'s ruby pipe games - http://kronavita.de/chris/data/pipeline_rdoc.html

10:20pm Wife reports from hospital that the child hasn't needed oxygen tonight - this bodes well for him being discharged tomorrow.

Monday 11 January

12:00am The Elements of Computing Systems really is a remarkable book - start with coding a NAND gate, build up until a machine for space invaders.

12:12am **@threedaymonk** - should clarify, it's a remarkable *idea* for a book - have only just started it, but it's good so far.

12:13am **@threedaymonk** - example chapters: <http://www1.idc.ac.il/tecs/plan.html>

12:14pm You have to be a moron to think that Dyson's are well-designed.

01:01pm **@jodrell** - you've never tried to pick it up and out comes the wand thing or the dust jar? Wondered why that jar of dead skin's transparent?

01:02pm **@jodrell** - accidentally removed the dust jar when looking for the on button? Why is it soooo heavy? Attachment shape sorter?

01:02pm **@jodrell** - they're awful. Designed to be different, and not very well.

01:07pm **@jodrell** - just been looking at them in Currys - go to pick it up, out comes the wand. Assistant says "everyone does that".

01:08pm **@jodrell** - our old one had 5 attachments and four holes for them. And they kept falling out. Not improved, as far as I could see.

01:09pm **@jodrell** - their popularity is really a case of Emperor's New Clothes as far as I can see.

01:26pm **@jodrell** apart from the dyson imitators, the other cleaners seemed much less hostile and shoddy. And cheaper.

07:05pm Wow. A K Dewdney, whose SciAm columns made me love computers in a 9/11 conspiracy nut: <http://tinyurl.com/y8dk57g>

10:43pm "Cameron's poster campaign is disgusting and fascinating, like a teenager's sock drawer, or tertiary syphilis." <http://tinyurl.com/ycxe8bo>

- 10:59pm I reckon there must be more people claiming they'll never buy the Independent again than have ever bought it in the first place.
- 11:03pm So much better than seeing the virgin mary in a piece of fruit: http://www.mindhacks.com/blog/2010/01/the_case_of_the_haun.html
- 11:28pm **@secadra** actually I have three roombas. Think they're ace. But, oh, the stairs.
- 11:56pm So pleased that the family are back home and the child's well again - thanks to all the brilliant staff at Lewisham Hospital.

Tuesday 12 January

- 12:03am "People recognise the British army because of the camouflage they wear." Um. Ok. <http://tinyurl.com/ylzprxm> This video could be a spoof.
- 12:19am Man cured after seeing real doctor: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/england/lincolnshire/8449582.stm>
- 12:30am Latest Ladbrokes odds for next MP for Lewisham Deptford: Lab 1-66 Green 12-1 Lib-Dem 33-1 Conservatives 100-1. (via **@lewgreenparty**)
- 12:46am "Presumably irony is not a strong point at RBS" <http://tinyurl.com/yevdv93> (I should link to the Morning Star more often)
- 01:23pm I love how the Telegraph isn't letting its journalistic standards slip. Not one bit. <http://tinyurl.com/ylacsrn>
- 01:40pm Angry Mobs bearing threatening infographics: http://andrewsullivan.theatlantic.com/the_daily_dish/2010/01/the-power-of-charts.html
- 01:48pm **@robertbrook** - oh, I don't know. Infocom used something called ZIL I think. There was a thing called the Quill. Nowadays Inform or TADS.
- 03:35pm Wondering if the EU's stop and search judgement means that the ~120,000 people stopped so far are now entitled to compensation.
- 04:19pm Remembering the initial rails screencast and wondering why getting a rails app running is so bloody complicated now.

- 05:38pm **@kufena** - I might have some fun (for some definition of fun) bits of programming if you're looking for some practice. Not paid, though.
- 09:42pm **@mediaczar** - saw your yahoo pipes work and thought my list of uk mps on twitter might be of interest: <http://mps.monstermischief.com>
- 09:54pm **@alexfoster** - saw your twitter article and thought you might be interested in my project: <http://mps.monstermischief.com> Who've I missed?
- 10:50pm Wondering why traffic to my blog has gone up. Oh yeah, it's because of searches for 'big brother fuck' for which I'm on page 2 of google.
- 10:53pm Searches that end up on my blog <http://yfrog.com/3gaevkj> lovely.
- 11:07pm **@AlbertoNardelli** yes, but without parties and external identifiers - useful for cross-checking, but not that useful to me. But thanks.
- 11:12pm **@AlbertoNardelli** - I have 117 MPs on my list, you've 106. Will cross-check tomorrow and see what the difference is. (Thanks **@mediaczar**)
- 11:13pm **@lazyatom** - I do something similar, maybe, sometimes: <http://friendfeed.com/search?q=%23babysteps+from%3Atecbelly>

Wednesday 13 January

- 01:28pm Looking forward to London Ruby Users' Group **@lrug** tonight. Feels like 2010 getting back to normal.
- 02:26pm How do you tend pronounce "Object.nil?" in ruby? Is it nil, nil-question-mark, nil-q, or nil with rising intonation. Are there dialects?
- 02:34pm **@AlbertoNardelli** can anyone web-scrape, re-use, republish the data from tweetminster? If so, that's excellent, and my list can melt away.
- 02:35pm **@lazyatom** - shit, I thought you just had a weird tick. Didn't like to mention it.
- 02:53pm Would love to go to SPA2010 - but £450 for three days is too much for me. Sorry chaps. **@rubymanor** was £8 for the day. That's more like it.

- 03:18pm One of those days when everything reads like a spoof:
 "Today many people in China are sad. Who's sad?" <http://bit.ly/5OOqGT>
- 05:11pm Yes, on reflection, I do like **@marick** suggestion of using
 'conjure' to mean 'get_or_create'.

Thursday 14 January

- 12:35am Came home to find the child had drawn a picture. Just for me. *#babysteps* <http://yfrog.com/3nygnoj>
- 12:41am sudo gem install redcar --pre && redcar install
- 12:54am **@david_a_black** - escaper is someone who is escaping, escapee is someone who has escaped (or so I was taught). Doesn't make much sense.
- 01:08am **@LewiHospitalNHS** - don't mean to teach you your job, but when you get positive feedback, you should ask what you could have done better...
- 01:15am Um. If it's meant to be pronounced like 'water' then don't spell it 'watir'. kthxbai
- 01:17am When the child becomes a galaxy-famous astronaut, this stuff will be commonplace: <http://tinyurl.com/yayns9e>
- 01:31am **@maccman** I'm still not entirely convinced, but this seems an interesting point in your favour: <http://technologyreview.com/blog/arxiv/24646/>
- 12:16pm Uncommonly excited by this: <http://headwayblog.com/2009/12/14/telling-time-with-openrealtime-data/>
- 12:21pm I don't care much about this, it's the constant drip drip of commercial product into BBC news that worries me: <http://tinyurl.com/yh399mp>
- 12:29pm "If Agile is the teachings of Jesus, Scrum is every abuse ever perpetrated in his name." Indeed.
- 01:46pm **@threedaymonk @nevali** - nice of the BBC to link to me, but my traffic mainly comes from incest: <http://twitter.com/beng/status/7686137788>
- 04:02pm Turns out it's possible to stand for election in more than one constituency. That's a bit odd. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Whittaker

- 07:02pm "For every paid app developed and sold [in apple's App store], three more are pirated." Bollocks. I say. <http://tinyurl.com/y9zhufs>
- 07:06pm **@nevali** I can't imagine why journalists wouldn't question this story. It's clearly insanely over-estimating the amount of piracy.
- 07:21pm **@nevali** Even on the piratebay, there are only a handful of seeders of this stuff: <http://thepiratebay.org/top/304> and none in top 100.
- 07:22pm **@nevali** and yet the article says: "The top 100 downloads listed at piratebay.com is littered with expensive TomTom and Garmin GPS products."
- 07:24pm **@nevali** - I guess we're expected to believe that 200 torrenters have served 1.53 billion downloads. Wow. They're good.
- 08:25pm Heh heh heh: <http://www.b3ta.com/board/9861968>
- 10:04pm This seems important. Although I wouldn't be surprised if no-one really defends the principle of a commons: <http://tinyurl.com/y8oy7a3>
- 10:48pm Mashable is so much better than the Telegraph on this story: <http://tinyurl.com/yksazho> (and newspapers want to charge us???)
- 11:23pm Had no idea that there is an actual Doomsday Clock - It's 23:54 by the way. <http://www.thebulletin.org/content/doomsday-clock/timeline>
- 11:29pm <http://101usesforabanker.com/>

Friday 15 January

- 12:20am **@alexfoster** - it's explicitly free of copyright/IP rights and published in ways that people can repurpose for whatever they want.
- 01:05am "They know, don't mess with that sponge." <http://tinyurl.com/y9saxnf>
- 01:19am **@maccman** gdb is your friend. <http://www.gnu.org/software/gdb/> look for trace and collect in the docs.
- 09:46am Always like to see the term pogonophobia, but what an amazingly egotistical tone <http://tinyurl.com/y9tkfqz> Yet again, reads like a spoof.

- 11:47am Hoist by their own petards: <http://bit.ly/4PjA2D> We're all going to regret an illiberal copyright regime, methinks.
- 11:49am I weep whenever anyone refers to the Daily Mail as a 'newspaper' <http://bit.ly/8Vfoin>
- 07:06pm Feeling sorry for the all the Yorkshiremen that will now be stopped and searched: <http://tinyurl.com/ybnmz47> But, if you fit the profile...
- 07:07pm So, looks like we need summary justice for filesharers because juries just won't convict: <http://tinyurl.com/yelnkpe>
- 08:34pm Does the OiNK verdict mean that it's legal to run a torrent tracker in the UK? Or was there another reason for the acquittal?
- 08:55pm @aubergene conspiracy to defraud, I think, and the legal question's always been whether running a tracker makes one complicit in IP theft.
- 08:58pm @aubergene - a legal friend tells me that conspiracy to defraud actions can be a tactic to prosecute acts that aren't necessarily criminal.
- 09:56pm " Others describe confusion as the fringiest of the fringe." Really? I bet they don't. <http://tinyurl.com/y8qpos6>
- 10:11pm Footage of the arrest of the OiNK man from 2007: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QuwwMZKYxag>

Saturday 16 January

- 07:40pm Meet the 9-12ers: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/audio/2010/jan/15/gary-young-barack-obama-2> How to treat this with anything but disdain?
- 11:12pm Dear Flash Plugin, "I wish you didn't treat me like a second class citizen." <http://codesketch.com/2010/01/16/dear-flash-plugin-love-osx/>

Sunday 17 January

- 01:53am Don't understand what goes through companies' heads when they come up with these schemes: <http://tinyurl.com/yjqps56> (just give the money!)

- 12:52pm Pleased that **@ocadouk** will no longer be delivering a 'complimentary' copy of Murdoch's Times - don't want to be counted in its circulation.
- 02:52pm **@jaggeree** Congratulations! Of course, not too late to call the little chap 'octo'. (although Tom Francis is an excellent name).
- 03:04pm **@samnewman** - spelling whoops - s/organsiation/ organisation/ - unless you're trying to attract dyslexic googlers.
- 03:31pm I've been using ruby for such a long time, and only just realised that it has continuations. How'd I miss that?
- 04:23pm **@david_a_black @lukeredpath** Oh well, I didn't really have a sensible use for them anyway. :)
- 04:56pm I wish the major UK parties would announce that they'll field candidates in Northern Ireland in the next election. You know, it's time.
- 05:01pm Thinking that the practice of programming in a monospace font is a cargo cult. Might give some of these a go: <http://bit.ly/2Q1pag>
- 05:36pm **@lazyatom** - instead of private methods I now have methods that 'lurk from beyond and whisper in the darkness'.
- 06:58pm **@danlucraft** I understood there was no requirement for the UUP to take the Tory whip nor manifestos. Not the same at all to my mind.
- 09:47pm Amused that they use vodka instead of whisky in this article: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/scotland/8463333.stm>

Tuesday 19 January

- 10:48am Oh boy - this winter vomiting bug is no fun. Day 3 of illness here we come.
- 10:50am **@robertbrook** He's good - seems like he might have had a very mild spell of it last week.
- 04:20pm I really don't like the 'I had one magical teacher and it changed my whole life like in that film with Robin Williams' narrative; too easy.
- 08:13pm Not just me: <http://www.greenwich.co.uk/news/02602-nhs-trust-closes-wards-to-visitors-to-combat-norovirus/>

10:17pm Absurd. America makes no sense. <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/americas/8468981.stm> (via @robertbrook)

Wednesday 20 January

- 12:57am Ooooooh. <http://www.wired.com/gadgetlab/2010/01/hp-3d-printers/> Still want to start an on-demand toyshop...
- 01:31am Saatchi and Saatchi finds new way to recruit sociopathic liars: <http://sophiewilkinson.blogspot.com/2010/01/sorry.html>
- 01:36am Actually, just *being* an advertising agency would seem a good way to recruit sociopathic liars.
- 01:38am Enjoyed Wallender - but I could almost hear the director saying 'bleaker, bleaker, just make it all a bit bleaker'.
- 06:29am I think this poster may be more insulting to ruby programmers than the creator realises <http://bit.ly/72yHn5> or maybe not.
- 09:28pm "The chair comes with a stereo, nitrous oxide booster, parachute and a "hell yeah it's fast" sticker." <http://bit.ly/8afWwA>
- 09:58pm We are a house of plague. A friend brought some shopping by today. She left it outside, and texted us to let us know from a safe distance.

Thursday 21 January

- 01:11pm "With rights come responsibilities" is just comic book morality. Rights don't come with strings attached, that's kind of the point.

Friday 22 January

- 11:47am BBC is still so wrong here: <http://bit.ly/8Wl4hp> It's not that we 'don't like the idea' of DRM, we think the consequences are harmful.
- 02:25pm "[Cinema] wasn't killed by pirates, it was fucked to death by fat sweaty middle-aged white men" <http://bit.ly/50ctYE>
- 03:28pm Pair programming with the child: <http://yfrog.com/4g52ybj>

- 03:36pm Today is the first day of 2010 where I'm feeling entirely human and well; ok, a bit tired, maybe. If you're waiting on me, be patient!
- 04:48pm "The more freely information flows, the stronger societies become." Strong stuff - while we debate cutting people off. <http://bit.ly/7G6Y21>
- 04:51pm Lovely. And unlikely to ever happen with any contemporary film archive, because of 'rights clearance issues'. <http://bit.ly/7JFraE>
- 07:30pm Don't say I didn't tell you: <http://tinyurl.com/ydlalph> NLP is cargo-cult psychology
- 08:33pm I think the trade union movement is really badly served by Bob Crow being its public face - or rather voice. *#radio4*
- 08:58pm Latest piece of child's escape plan is to pretend he's hungry so that we open the door to go to the kitchen and bingo he's free! *#babysteps*
- 10:08pm Every so often, it's worth visiting <http://www.activeplaces.com/> and laughing your arse off, and then crying because it's still so bad.
- 10:14pm Sooo much better: <http://activeplaces.jamesandre.ws/> Oi, active places use this instead. Please?
- 10:29pm FOI traffic number request for active places http://www.whatdotheyknow.com/request/visitor_statistics_for_active_pl#outgoing-50747
- 11:07pm I don't understand terrorist threat level. Attack now 'highly likely'. That's what? 80% chance? 51% is likely, right? and in what? a year?

Saturday 23 January

- 12:43am "This is Emergency Ant. He watches over our office and keeps us safe." <http://i.imgur.com/YPe79.jpg>
- 04:36pm s/cloud/mainframe/ and we're back in the 80s. <http://www.kable.co.uk/g-cloud-computing-cio-john-suffolk-22jan10> Gov IT makes me laugh.
- 08:13pm Pharo is shaping up to be a useful Smalltalk. <http://www.pharo-project.org/home> Is it what I've been looking for? Not sure.
- 09:31pm @tomcoates I have similar strength glasses - but I think I end the day less tired if I've been wearing them. Might be psychosomatic though.

11:32pm **@robertbrook** - <http://www1.idc.ac.il/tecs/>

Sunday 24 January

- 07:43pm Reminds me of **@danlucraft**'s **@lrug** redcar demo: <http://tinyurl.com/ybw32jt> (utterly convinced we need another smalltalk-like environment).
- 10:10pm Reading that the burka should be banned because one of the 21/7 bombers escaped by wearing one. An argument against all fancy dress, surely?
- 10:11pm Ah, sorry, link: <http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/comment/letters/article6994271.ece>
- 11:38pm Semantic analysis of source code: <http://tinyurl.com/ydj3eey> (would like to run this across the whole of, say, github).
- 11:38pm **@lazyatom** - I find there are invisible cars *everywhere* - you just can't see them.

Monday 25 January

- 12:01am Smalltalk expectation matchers: <http://www.iam.unibe.ch/~akuhn/blog/2009/shoulda-use-this-in-pharo/>
- 12:08am "She must have hidden the pants in the escape pod" and 277 others. <http://www.keepersoflists.org/index.php?lid=1906>
- 12:28am Realising that many programmers don't have yardsticks with which to judge code quality.
- 09:55am Err. WTF? <http://blog.z-word.com/2010/01/we-are-all-seismic-shock/> A visit from the police, for writing a blog? How has this happened?
- 02:16pm It's wrong to laugh at others' misfortune: <http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,583810,00.html> (via **@brunns**)
- 02:19pm Learning a lot about what I actually believe: http://www.naturalnews.com/028012_skeptics_medicine.html
- 02:47pm **@danlucraft** - in what ways? Was that achieved through jruby? Interested.
- 02:58pm "You don't have to like these ads, but you might consider using them to market your business." Arsewipes.

- 03:24pm Proof that even scientists don't understand probability:
<http://bit.ly/6Otu4N> You can't infer past risk from past outcomes. Idiot.
- 03:52pm I miss helping smart people to become better programmers. There, said it.
- 04:25pm Superpowers in Library Design: <http://bit.ly/6ZutwR> (not something for everyday use - on the very edge of too clever by half)
- 07:46pm How do you reliably link to something on SqueakSource? You can't. Wonky continuation-based web frameworks. Like goddamn java all over again.
- 07:50pm Apropos continuation-based web frameworks: all that time we spent chasing the academics back into their towers was wasted. They came back.
- 07:59pm "whine whine you can make back button / bookmarking work if you try whine whine." Same old shit from java web framework folk, 10 years ago.
- 08:40pm **@lukeredpath** - no, but everything on them is here - <http://effectif.com/ruby/manor/short-order-ruby>
- 11:21pm There may be objects in a squeak image that were instantiated in 1977. I find that pretty awe-inspiring.
<http://wiki.squeak.org/squeak/769>

Tuesday 26 January

- 01:03am **@lazyatom** - I'm the same, but I still feel drawn to it. Partly because it's a bit of my past and partly because it's so... something.
- 01:30am "The higher the bounty, the more people are likely to try to arrest Mr Blair." <http://www.arrestblair.org/> Genius.
- 04:19am "The difference between weather and terrorists is that terrorists are sentient and weather is not." I love the internet.
- 03:32pm Thought the Bribery Bill was about preventing bribery? Think again: http://www.contratory.co.uk/blog/_archives/2010/1/21/4434230.html
- 03:49pm Did the minister just use Avatar as an example of a film harmed by piracy? The highest-grossing film ever? Is there no end to this logic?

Wednesday 27 January

- 09:00am Y
- 07:38pm Not sure about iPad. Bigger iPhone. Keep picturing Dom Joly shouting "I'm on my iPad".
- 07:42pm Here we go. iPad a bit like this: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K-I_MJFIZbs (I know there's no phone in it really). *#ipad*
- 07:45pm Still need silly apple dock connector to charge it. This is a design flaw apple, do you hear?
- 07:48pm Hah - iPad 'Camera Connection Kit' - more bloody apple dongles. Really? <http://www.apple.com/ipad/specs/>
- 08:24pm If only the iPad had hypercard on it. Am serious.

Thursday 28 January

- 01:33am **@lukeredpath** I was surprised there wasn't a growl-type notification thing on the iPad - triggered by push notifications (or something)
- 02:10am So much for the iPad. I want a Data Egg: <http://xaphoon.com/dataegg/>
- 11:37am Richard Bacon trying to explain evolution to Stephen Baldwin: <http://bit.ly/axDPQx> (via **@NewHumanist**)
- 05:58pm I predict that Apple will have to release an iSight for the iPad. Video chat is the killer app for grandparents.
- 11:20pm Shh. Don't tell anyone, but this is the killer app for the iPad: http://www.americanmemorabilia.com/Auction_Item.asp?Auction_ID=38292

Friday 29 January

- 12:26am **@lukeredpath** - I saw an apple engineer in a video saying that not having multitasking makes developers concentrate on app startup time....
- 12:27am **@lukeredpath** ... and that had been one of the major things that people complained about on other smart-phones. Not sure I buy it.

- 12:30am **@lukeredpath** - I agree. But they do get fixated on things sometimes - witness the single mouse button that we put up with for so long.
- 04:38pm Woah - unexpectedly overslept. By a whole day. Told you I was ill.
- 07:35pm **@threedaymonk** - As I understand it, few. But we've been lucky. The population is now massively more at risk of an epidemic than previously.
- 09:29pm Liking self: <http://bit.ly/bmwOT4> (had no idea it was still active). Quick video here: <http://bit.ly/az1wXd>
- 11:41pm **@nevali** - I can well believe the conclusions but the methodology used was very suspect: <http://bit.ly/bxmzcV>
Better research needed.

Saturday 30 January

- 03:25am Inbox of the beast: <http://yfrog.com/35q5eg>
- 05:26pm Heh. Flash not even capable of making a snarky point about flash: <http://bit.ly/9bakn7>
- 06:53pm Aside from the odd video I want to watch (html5 anyone?) all flash does is steal my CPU cycles and give them to fuckfaced advertisers.
- 06:54pm Oh, that's not true. It also is the only thing that causes crashes on my machine. Good riddance Adobe.
- 06:57pm Oh, and it makes me less secure by allowing fuckfaced advertisers et al. to track me, against my security preferences. <http://bit.ly/kMRUS>
- 08:23pm It upsets me that the debate about homeopathy centres on how it works. Paracetamol's mechanism is still debated. Focus on the trials.
- 08:29pm **@kufena** - <http://www.flickr.com/photos/henrybloomfield/4316190136/> (via **@robertbrook**)
- 08:56pm Antidote to all this iPad nonsense: http://www.timhunkin.com/a147_secret-life-word-processor.htm
- 09:27pm I appear to be writing a pidgin smalltalk in javascript. Ho hum.
- 10:21pm I wonder who would buy one of these: <http://bit.ly/a2dctm> (Tony Soprano, maybe).

- 10:36pm Are there any secret webkit javascript methods that let you get at the variables a function is closed over? Trying to serialize a function.
- 10:55pm I wonder when we'll start seeing TV programmes cut for the web - there's no need for them to fit into hour/half-hour slots any more.
- 11:05pm **@threedaymonk** - uneval is spidermonkey only, and it doesn't really do what I want. <http://pastie.textmate.org/802304> Not sure it's possible.
- 11:21pm **@threedaymonk** - I want to save out and then later load up the root object, state and all, but can't get at that closed over x variable.
- 11:22pm **@jodrell** - works both ways, there are some hour-long episodes that should be 10 minutes!
- 11:23pm **@threedaymonk** - actually, I want to be able to save down any javascript object. Am trying to hack together an image-based javascript.

Sunday 31 January

- 12:21am Loved this game first time around. Will it work under WINE? Let's find out. <http://bit.ly/cHUIIU>
- 12:57am **@lukeredpath** - used WINE to install it. Seems to run under DOSBOX. Had to go full screen and fiddle with options for sound.
- 05:59pm RT **@ZpoonZ** fucking awesome! RT **@disappointment:** I am 36 years old <http://yfrog.com/4en2blj> -- HAHA! (via **@renduh**) ; genius.
- 11:30pm Really fed up with being ill. Barely have enough energy to concentrate for ten minutes.
- 11:31pm **@kufena** - I fear you missed the point. He takes out a helicopter... with a car. That's the important bit, and the lesson to learn.
- 11:35pm Oh dear - P2P filesharing funds organised crime. The same wonky logic would have shops causing shoplifting: <http://bit.ly/92vN07>

February

Monday 01 February

- 01:12am Seriously, it's time they rebooted (or whatever it's called)
Manimal: <http://bit.ly/bbCpuQ>
- 01:20am Although, this seems pretty ripe for a remake too: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Supertrain>
- 03:36am Oh dear. <http://liberalconspiracy.org/2010/02/01/home-office-gives-10k-to-fight-crime-with-prayers/> Oh dear.
- 03:41am http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stepped_Reckoner
- 03:40pm Feeling worse today than yesterday. Deathly pale. This illness more gothic than I was lead to believe.
- 03:44pm Former EDS director no more qualified than dog: <http://www.itnews.com.au/News/165888,key-eds-witness-bought-internet-degree.aspx>
- 08:13pm **@nevali** - No mention of US colleges, NCSA, etc. No Yahoo! - not how I remember the early web at all. Nice to see John Perry Barlow, though.
- 08:16pm **@nevali** and where was the modem handshake sound. The whole programme should have been the modem handshake sound.
- 11:58pm In case of apocalypse hoarding baked beans, water and a copy of wikipedia on a solar-powered ebook reader. Will rule London.

Tuesday 02 February

- 12:02am Just made myself an ALU out of Nand gates (well, virtually anyway). <http://www1.idc.ac.il/tecs/plan.html>
- 12:39am Wikipedia isn't afraid to segue straight from Orwell to Warhammer: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Perpetual_war#In_fiction Nice.
- 12:50am Liking Echofon as a twitter client on Mac.
- 01:19am **@oneplusphoto** best... theme... music... ever...
- 02:46am I fear the way that tech folk now say something's 'poorly executed' rather than a 'bag of shite'.

- 02:56am **@oneplusphoto** - I guess. But I think it's pretty meaningless MBA-speak - poorly designed, built, engineered I get. Executed, not so much.
- 02:59am Have completed project 3 of "The Elements of Computing Systems". Next stop machine code. <http://www1.idc.ac.il/tecs/plan.html>
- 04:55pm **@oneplusphoto** going forward, we need to proactively manage this vocabulary execution. Just to be on the same page.
- 10:13pm Dear Mr Brown... <http://dannyshine.blogspot.com/2010/02/letter-i-wrote-to-pm.html>
- 10:24pm Gordon Brown: people *regard* the expenses scandal as a betrayal of trust. How do *you* regard it Gordon? <http://bit.ly/9e2kUj> Not learning.
- 11:53pm I'm not at all convinced by most proportional representation systems - I think straight AV in constituencies would be good for our politics.
- 11:58pm **@threedaymonk** - it's claimed it reduces the influence of media/pollsters because you remove the wasted vote fear. That's healthy I think.

Wednesday 03 February

- 12:00am **@threedaymonk** - and you don't risk those silly coalitions with fringe lunatics holding the balance of power which PR can lead to.
- 12:10am **@delineator** - my absolute preferred electoral system - random ballot like jury service - probably wasn't one of the choices in NZ, right?
- 12:22am **@delineator** - but no-one's suggesting group voting here; just a change in counting and constituency criteria.
- 12:26am **@delineator** - indeed, I have no basis for the numbers but I would think 1000 MPs and a 5 year rotation with 20% replaced each year.
- 12:29am **@delineator** - I've no problem with the ideal of proportionality, but all proposed mechanisms fail by privileging the political party.
- 12:30am **@delineator** - one of the reasons I like AV is that I think it's the most robust defence against tactical voting.

- 12:45am **@delineator** - who's arguing for FPTP? Whipping's a separate issue. And I bet the NZ coalitions have their share of secret horse-trading.
- 12:45am **@delineator** - in my opinion moving to AV in constituencies here would have a beneficial effect on our governance. That's all.
- 12:59am Johann Hari makes some excellent points here: <http://www.youtube.com/user/phemefilms#p/a/u/0/Z-mD4NjwcDo> (and a couple of good jokes).
- 01:04am Only £254m in profit? Gosh, we must pass draconian laws to protect this industry now! <http://bit.ly/azRpQW> Oh, wait...
- 01:05am Oops. of course I meant 256m dollars not pounds.
- 01:27am "We featurize every part of advertising" - I could barely copy and paste that sentence without vomiting. <http://bit.ly/cheQkb>
- 01:44am **@knaveofdiamonds** the book alone is so-so. The course materials make it more useful. The shape of the course is very compelling though.
- 04:17am RT **@mrpatto**: Two things I just learned existed: "3 men and a bride" and <http://selleckwaterfallsandwich.tumblr.com/> (Terrifying)
- 04:31am Pretty sure I just heard the child say 'oblong shoe' through the baby monitor - that would be a strange first sentence. *#babysteps*
- 11:38pm Make the Pope pay. <http://www.secularism.org.uk/petition-the-pm.html> Seems fair to me.

Thursday 04 February

- 03:53am Benefits of being bed-ridden: done chapter 5 projects *#tecs*. Built a computer from nand gates. <http://www1.idc.ac.il/tecs/> Now, software...
- 07:27am "Britain Works is a three-year commitment by Microsoft to help get Britain back to work after the economic downturn." Huh?
- 07:28am "Potential apprentices are selected by JobCentre Plus and recruited by local Microsoft partners." Hmm.
- 07:36pm Interesting to read this economic description of the UK: <http://bit.ly/cKcBRa> Doesn't sound so bad.

- 08:03pm I find it almost impossible to read the NY Times because of their f***ing stupid automatic dictionary anti-feature.
- 08:39pm I think you're a bit weird if you don't secretly want one of these hoodies: <http://www.dinosaurhoodies.com/Photos.html>
- 08:47pm "Makeover series in which mums claim to be hotter than their daughters, and a public jury decides." Really, BBC3? Really?
- 09:13pm Woah, wall-climbing moggies: "They estimate the same device ... could hold the weight of a small cat." <http://bit.ly/di5bmK>
- 09:50pm Nintendo DS games seem to push a 'boys get jobs, girls look after pets and cook' worldview. I worry more about that than game violence.
- 09:52pm Blatant example - <http://bit.ly/cjDX2Y>. Boys get "toy train", "drive the car"; girls get "little kitchen" and "colour the animals" games.
- 10:31pm Feels wrong that 80% of a game's budget is advertising. <http://www.bme.eu.com/news/avatar-vs-modern-warfare-2/> (but, boy big business).
- 10:57pm Ooh, triffid research: <http://www.popsoci.com/science/article/2010-02/first-pigs-then-bacteria-now-insulin-flowers>
- 11:00pm Do not trust the shower robot. <http://www.newgrounds.com/portal/view/33440>
- 11:03pm It's like this blog was made just for me: <http://creepyrobots.tumblr.com/>
- 11:23pm RT @chrisroos: Southeastern daily performance reports (<http://goo.gl/kLiK>). -> Google docs (<http://goo.gl/DiLt>). [Oh yes!]
- 11:29pm @swombat - Not PR problem, product problem. IMO they stopped caring about individuals and concentrated on corporate sales and OEM installs.
- 11:33pm @swombat - It's funny. They now have the same marketing strategy for which they mocked Quark when they launched inDesign.
- 11:39pm Branching and merging has always been an error-prone pain-in-the-arse: <http://bit.ly/aCEtvS>

Friday 05 February

- 12:32am Am I the only one uncomfortable that my iPhone apps may be sending data to these people? <http://bit.ly/92MaBS>
How do I opt out?
- 12:53am **@threedaymonk** - like the iPad, not aimed at us, aimed at our mothers. Oh, wait...
- 01:29am I predict that the iPad will be more criticised than Chrome OS, despite being as open. Thank-you conjunction fallacy.
- 03:33am Uncovering the secrets of Mega Shark: <http://staubman.com/blog/?p=67> (via **@mrpatto**)
- 03:39am "Apple doesn't want to support Bluray yet because HDCP will make users feel likeretards for choosing Apple hardware." <http://bit.ly/bR08yk>
- 04:26am Re-reading the first book of Paradise Lost. Now, that's how to start a story.
- 07:30am I don't like this marketing word-virus where people say '10x less' rather than 'a tenth of'.
- 07:36am Self-hosting compilers are another one of those elegant nodes in computing: <http://blog.lvm.org/2010/02/clang-successfully-self-hosts.html>

Saturday 06 February

- 01:18am Wow - a strong film on the Digital Economy Bill from **@markthomasinfo**. Excellent - <http://bit.ly/9CcqxL>
- 01:37am Hearing about Blair's post-pm earnings, the argument that MPs should get loans, like students, instead of salaries seems logical.
- 01:53am 60% of internet users use the web to find out information about their local schools. That's astonishingly high, I think. Can't be right.
- 01:55am Oh, I see, the research has been misquoted. 60% of citizens *say they would* use the internet.... Not the same at all. Journalists, eh?
- 03:33am Does anyone else worry that one day some routine medical test will reveal that they're actually an android? Just me, then.
- 03:40am Actually, my fear is much less Blade Runner and more D.A.R.Y.L

- 03:45am In case of fire, pepper (well, wasabi) spray yourself: <http://www.nerdsalad.com/2010/02/wasabi-fire-alarm/>
- 04:11am Not sure that eliminating "the randomness of natural evolutionary advancement" is such a good idea. <http://bit.ly/bnni6h>
- 05:09am Reading a book on Clojure - so far, seems just to be erecting caricatures of other languages and then tearing them down. Boring as hell.

Sunday 07 February

- 12:05am In 1997 I went to an election hustings where the (sitting) labour MP read out all of her answers from an official folder. Plus ça change.
- 12:07am **@lukeredpath** - I have a sleep cycle alarm watch here somewhere. Didn't work for me. You're welcome to borrow if I can find it.
- 02:06am Not sure I see much difference between branching, and chucking patches around without committing, but interesting: <http://bit.ly/b6SwLG>
- 02:07am Although the point is maybe that making branching harder makes development cleaner. I believe that. Thousands think I'm crazy.
- 03:24am **@rlivsey** - I don't get it. I thought the point of PSAs was to scare the crap out of young kids and cause them lasting psychological trauma.
- 03:25am **@rlivsey** - like this! <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z7Y6t0V5IJc>
- 03:30am "Vim is the most widely used clone, and there exists a separate Internet domain (vim.org) dedicated to it." A whole domain? You don't say!
- 04:22am Sigh, was sure I was going to be better by today. But, barely have the energy to walk up and down the stairs.
- 05:13am Reading that 'the earth's climate was designed to self-correct'. WTF? By whom? Why? And you want me to take you seriously? idiot columnist.

Monday 08 February

- 12:18am I'm liking the second episode of *#bbcrevolution* much more than the first. But, Jeff Bezos in the bit about democracy in Iran? Not so much.
- 04:47am "I do wish you wouldn't keep going on about my nanny. If I had a valet, you'd think it was perfectly normal." <http://bit.ly/bm47kN>
- 09:03am This spEak You're bRanes post made me laugh: <http://ifyoulikeitsomuchwhydontyougolivethere.com/2010/02/08/hys-direct/>
- 09:39am The Economist on Tories' marriage tax break: "a bad idea at any time ... [and right now] an extraordinary proposal." <http://bit.ly/ax8QCZ>
- 09:51am Verizon have supposedly blocked 4chan - this will end in tears. http://www.readwriteweb.com/archives/verizon_blocks_4chan.php
- 09:56am Plucking up the courage to leave the house - it looks mighty cold out there, and I've not been outside on my own for weeks.
- 02:28pm Not sure how practicable these phone design ideas are, but I am curious how intuitive they might be: <http://bit.ly/9rhxo1>
- 02:38pm **@cambridgedesign** a phone is for browsing the web when you can't get to a laptop, right?

Tuesday 09 February

- 07:50am Given this latest Toyota recall - must be a software bug, right? - does the MOT test include software?
- 07:51am I mean the MOT is basically a big manual regression test, right?
- 08:26am **@jodrell** - http://www.marketwatch.com/story/toyota-recalls-4-models-to-correct-abs-software-program-2010-02-09?reflink=MW_news_stmp
- 10:40am Dear Libdems, you know this, right? Different voting systems may be appropriate for different elections - your soundbites do you no credit.
- 10:40am This is your chance, lib dems, and you're making cheap political shots at the other parties. Sigh.

- 10:53am World's first tidal-powered moon clock: <http://www.alunatime.org/index.htm> (looks like it's coming to Greenwich)
- 12:27pm Out of the house on my own again - not sure if I'm feeling better or if I've just reach the limits of boredom staying home.
- 12:56pm **@nevali** - shhh. The committee sabotaged **@threedaymonk**'s macbook to keep his righteous rage levels up. It's better for all of us.
- 01:51pm Heading home.

Wednesday 10 February

- 12:36pm If only Ofcom would step in and prevent the BBC 'insulting human dignity'. I have a long list. <http://bit.ly/9qzMev> (via **@currybet**)
- 12:38pm Today, I went to the hospital, where they shaved my chest and made me run on a treadmill. Now, back to bed, I think.
- 12:48pm **@nevali** - yes, but they didn't find out about my second heart. Which was good.
- 12:53pm I support the Robin Hood tax, but it's also an case study in how information technology makes the exercise of state power easier.
- 01:19pm Good line-up for London Ruby User Group tonight: <http://lrug.org/>
- 04:36pm Guardian crosswords. Thank-you, thank-you, thank-you.
- 04:40pm Really wanted to go to **@lrug** tonight - but too tired. Next time.

Thursday 11 February

- 11:13am Feel like google conned me into signing up for this buzz thing. Weak.
- 11:15am Funny, I didn't feel the same way about google chat. Not sure what's different.
- 11:16am **@threedaymonk** yes, exactly. Have no idea if I signed up or not.

- 11:48am I can no longer rely on the Telegraph to publish smart journalism that I disagree with; instead, this: <http://bit.ly/9fMa0k>
- 11:49am Tempted to buy a print copy of the Telegraph - their moron-fest must be an online phenomenon. It's like all their editors have given up.
- 11:52am Telegraph "EDITOR'S CHOICE" today: "A mathematics tutor at Warwick university has calculated the probability of ever finding true love."
- 12:02pm Um, Daily Mail, um, no. No. No. I really can't believe they published this cartoon: <http://bit.ly/cnWOIS> (via Liberal Conspiracy).
- 12:05pm What is DM trying to say? Immigrants are like animals? Interracial marriage is like bestiality? Labour panders to sheep-shaggers? WTF? WTF?
- 05:59pm **@TimHarford** Paul Krugman claims it will reduce market hyperactivity. Do you think that's wrong or that that's not a good thing to aim for?
- 07:47pm **@threedaymonk** - I updated RAW support yesterday. My Panasonic now works. Didn't reboot.
- 07:48pm **@threedaymonk** - so, maybe they're learning.

Friday 12 February

- 07:28pm **@kufena** - holy shark repellent, batman.

Saturday 13 February

- 09:39am Deleting my public google profile. Sorry, chaps. But you've lost my trust.
- 12:31pm **@lukeredpath** - yeah, if they want those public profiles to take off, they need to work on their SEO.
- 02:11pm There's a real human cost to the NHS Choices site not appearing high in google. Another great site marred by Microsoft web technology.
- 08:56pm "I feel slightly proud about that" <http://philwilson.org/blog/2009/07/how-curious-are-humans> -- oh, me too.
- 09:54pm You would think that the Mr. Men would all have their own twitter accounts. Just saying.

Sunday 14 February

- 09:00am "Puppy Tweets works by fusing directly to your pet's brain through a painful surgical procedure." Dogs on twitter.
<http://bit.ly/c8gBiO>
- 09:19am Have finally deactivated my facebook account. Seems there's no option to delete all the data.
- 12:45pm No, no, no, no. Dear people who make recommendation engines - I do not want to see Superman IV, ever. Please hard-code that.
- 12:47pm Amazing - A Yahoo! pipe thing that I could never get to work has suddenly started working. My RSS reader is now chock-full of obituaries.
- 04:46pm Astral weeks.
- 08:45pm "If you don't stand up for the stuff you don't like, when they come for the stuff you do like, you've already lost."
<http://bit.ly/cyY20a>
- 09:25pm This interweb may be regressive, it seems. <http://bit.ly/awMFjh> Implies that the educated elite's access is paid for by the less educated.

Monday 15 February

- 09:18am I was hoping there'd be a lot more of this kind of stuff. iPhone interfacing to the real world: <http://en.pedalbrain.com/home>
- 10:24am **@tomtaylor** - webfaction know their stuff. But servers based in Texas I think.
- 11:42am Oh IBM. I do like your Lotus Symphony suite, but you see other apps on the mac don't have icons in the menus. You noticed that, right?
- 11:44am Speaking of IBM. Bloke sat next to me looks like the kind of person who thinks Lotus Notes is really good.
- 11:57am "No one could stop [the mugger], even after I yelled that the bag was a fake." <http://bit.ly/dsLWu8> Ban cycles! Now! (via **@threedaymonk**)
- 12:05pm This is being written off as another Tory gaffe, but it's more than that. <http://bit.ly/axtt5o> They have an odd distorted view of Britain.

- 12:13pm Reading all the negative comments under the new (much improved to my mind) guardian crossword pages. <http://bit.ly/aCyikm>
- 12:24pm **@currybet** - have to finish crossword before I dare look at the comments, don't want to spoil things.
- 02:00pm Lovely response by **@antonvowl** to spam bloggers that were automatically stealing and reposting his articles.
- 02:00pm (Oops forgot the link: <http://enemiesofreason.co.uk/2010/02/15/were-very-sorry/>)
- 02:16pm I hope people realise that if this Robin Hood tax works to change speculation behaviour, it will raise much less revenue than suggested.
- 04:14pm I rather think that the Scala language is a strange and inelegant place. Not sure why people I respect want to live there.
- 10:13pm Reading Labour's odd thinking about public service mutualism. Isn't mutualism is primarily a way of distributing capital and profit?

Tuesday 16 February

- 12:16am We should be pretty damn proud of this: <http://bit.ly/aH6lAx> and this: <http://bit.ly/9emKI1> Broken Britain, my arse.
- 12:18pm **@robinince** - everyone always said having children pushes one rightwards. But since my son was born, I find myself more radical.
- 12:24pm Every which whey but loose. *#cheesefilms*
- 12:25pm The Spy Who Loved Brie *#cheesefilms*
- 12:25pm Gruyere Window *#cheesefilms*
- 12:46pm Is TfL running chain-gangs of errant 11 year-olds under the guise of community service? <http://bit.ly/cryrCp> FOI request, methinks.
- 12:55pm There we go: http://www.whatdotheyknow.com/request/number_of_under_16s_in_community
- 01:08pm Holy crap: Monkey Tennis! <http://www.guardian.co.uk/media/2010/feb/15/noel-edmonds-monkey-tv>
- 02:44pm I am so fed up with recruitment companies, especially those who think they're 'a high value talent network'. Grow up, people.

- 04:22pm What a whiny load of shite on Techcrunch right now. I reckon 3-4 hours of paperwork tops to get a company going and see it through year one.
- 04:24pm Government paperwork I mean. If you want to play silly buggers with company structure cleverness - well, you dig that hole yourself.
- 04:49pm Have suddenly remembered that **@chrisroos** hasn't seen War Games. This is not right.
- 05:29pm Eclipse would be a much better IDE if the icon section of the user interface guidelines just said: 'no more icons, please'.

Wednesday 17 February

- 10:02am I take it all back - it's not that the Telegraph's editors have given up. They've gone stark, raving mad: <http://bit.ly/axvfjn>
- 12:16pm I'm terribly sorry but what you want to do.. well, it's in the Quixotic quagmire. <http://bit.ly/dCpwiS> Management consultants make me laugh.
- 12:40pm Foundation hospitals are the broadest examples of mutualism in the UK. Freedom from government control good? <http://bit.ly/a4fAO6> Hmm.
- 02:46pm Always been curious about chorded keyboards - would like to try on of these out: <http://www.bellaire.demon.co.uk/index.html>
- 05:02pm If Martin Fowler's source control system chart was to scale, VSS should be far off to the left, somewhere near Mexico. <http://bit.ly/bEZ6jV>
- 05:11pm "Brown has called for a "full investigation" into how fraudulent British passports were used." Time to ban printing.
- 05:24pm Google API certification? Oh noes.
- 08:14pm The child loves sweeping the floor, but all the child's brushes in Mothercare are 'princess' pink. We won't buy those on principle.
- 08:16pm Oh, I should say, the principle being that we don't like toys being 'sexed' - not that we want the boy to only have manly blue things.
- 08:26pm **@jacrats** - exactly.

10:25pm Reading that Millbank's Theology and Social Theory is the foundation of Red Toryism. Please don't make me read it again.

Thursday 18 February

09:17am **@tom_watson** - why would we want to emulate lower-performing Sweden anyway? <http://bit.ly/9emKI1> <http://bit.ly/aH6lAx>

09:27am I've talked before about the government's relationship to Open Source being broken. Counter-example from France: <http://bit.ly/cjyX1p>

09:40am That fat pigeon - you know the one - is in our garden again.

01:21pm Talking of first class travel, the 11-year-old Cameron "tucked into caviar, salmon and beef bordelaise on Concorde." <http://bit.ly/9bXy0G>

01:22pm I wonder when Cameron moved from Dom Perignon '69 on Concorde to drinking Guinness from a can watching the darts? <http://bit.ly/9TvyHz>

02:04pm Looking forward to the launch of the new Observer - although I stopped buying it when they took a pro-war editorial line.

02:20pm Am hoping that Cameron's guinness-from-a-can stunt fails and he ups the ante by necking special brew from a bin.

04:08pm **@threedaymonk** - didn't Byron drink from the skull of one of his gardeners?

04:09pm **@threedaymonk** - he wrote a poem about it! <http://www.online-literature.com/byron/688/>

04:10pm "And when, alas! our brains are gone, What nobler substitute than wine?"

04:14pm **@threedaymonk** - I wonder how practical it is what with the big eye sockets. A cyclops' skull would make a good teapot though.

04:17pm This is why wikipedia is better than other encyclopaedia http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Category:Human_trophy_collecting

04:20pm <http://bit.ly/aaRIgv> "It's a little bit spooky because the front of the book looks like it has the face of a man on it"

- 07:14pm The child's first bubble bath. Matey smells the same as when we were little. *#babysteps*
- 10:17pm I do wonder sometimes if there are actually any distributed systems out there - fifteen years I've heard talk, but I'm still not sure.
- 10:26pm **@nevali** - Oh, good question. Systems characterised by autonomous narrow specialist nodes communicating by message passing over wires.
- 10:27pm **@nevali** - it doesn't mean "um, no-one knows what that machine does, but if we switch it off, everything stops working" (all too common).
- 10:29pm **@nevali** - my definition doesn't quite rule enough out either. Also, a tendency away from centralisation and multiple opaque address spaces.
- 10:39pm **@nevali** - there's a modern buddhist koan in there somewhere. If a tree falls in a forest...

Friday 19 February

- 10:25am FT smacks Tories: "They must learn – soon – that their desire for simple political messages is no excuse for nuance-free policy positions."
- 10:29am Cthulhu fhtagn! http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Bloop
- 04:52pm I wish we heard a little less about charity and a little more about solidarity. Oh boy, I'm drifting leftwards again.
- 07:05pm Response to my Active Places traffic FOI request. 17 pages per visit seems awfully high to me: <http://bit.ly/DBG7E7>
- 10:04pm "By far the most common way to send files electronically is on diskette - much easier than on tape." Wait, when was this book written?
- 10:06pm **@marick** - zork, et al, with added sociability <http://www.techbelly.com/2009/11/13/play-if-in-campfire/>
- 10:19pm **@threedaymonk** - I thought it sounded frighteningly like a nazi slogan. An aryan future. They've misjudged this.

Saturday 20 February

- 01:42am Vaughan from Mind Hacks on NLP: "It always struck me as Scientology without the aliens." <http://bit.ly/dA93eU>

- 01:59am Am typesetting Treasure Island. Not entirely sure why.
- 01:24pm **@danlucraft** - ASN.1?
- 03:26pm Web spider obstacle course - looks useful <http://github.com/postmodern/wsoc/>
- 04:19pm Hunter S Thompson tries to get customer service: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VrOhvSvKIhc>
- 04:37pm Honestly, who could be expected to make the right decision: http://www.ashersarlin.com/archives/2004/09/honestly_who_co.php
- 04:41pm "The time management tips I have learned from [Tim Ferris] stem from the energy I have spent hating him" <http://bit.ly/btNBFV>
- 07:45pm **@alecmuffett** AFAIK HEAD requests dealt with identically to GETs except without message body. Nothing special about REST, it's just http.
- 09:45pm **@alecmuffet** - maybe I misunderstand, but GET/POST/PUT/DELETE/HEAD are all actions that can be done to the same resource on the same url, no?
- 09:45pm **@alecmuffet** - there's no such thing as a PUT URL, right?
- 09:50pm **@alecmuffet** - what I mean is there's no such thing as a PUT url, DELETE url, etc. There's urls and there's methods and they're orthogonal.

Sunday 21 February

- 12:18am Have typeset the same page, in the same font in TextEdit, OpenOffice and LaTeX. Amazingly, all much the same. (Not sure why I did it though)
- 12:22am I wonder, does anyone have Word? Would like to see what this page looks like set with Word.
- 12:46am Can't tell for sure, but it seems that TextEdit's typesetting proceeds line-by-line, LaTeX's by paragraph and OpenOffice's by chance.
- 12:56am **@threedaymonk** - can you tell which is which? <http://www.techbelly.com/Experiment.pdf>
- 01:01am **@threedaymonk** - 0 out 3.
- 01:02am **@threedaymonk** - 1. LaTeX, 2. TextEdit, 3. OO. I think they're all pretty passable actually; am surprised how far DTPish typesetting's come.

- 01:04am **@threedaymonk** - LaTeX handles the widows and orphans better. The other two leave very short paragraphs on the next page.
- 01:09am **@threedaymonk** - no hyphenation in the source, small overhangs are common though, I think. We used to ignore <2mm, back when I did printing.
- 01:13am **@threedaymonk** - indeed. <http://techbelly.com/Latex-sloppy.pdf>
- 01:15am **@threedaymonk** - this is all your fault, you know. Wouldn't have installed LaTeX at all if it wasn't for your bloody report.
- 11:16am **@oneplusphoto** you're on! I have become slightly obsessive about this...
- 12:57pm Been asked to look over a company's coding standards. "They seem needlessly strict" "Oh, we don't follow them exactly, but we need them."
- 01:53pm I'm glad someone else is having a go at Dubit - <http://bit.ly/b8F588> - marketing to kids, even by kids, is for shitheads.
- 06:06pm Child is speaking in tongues today - can't decide if it's elvish or klingon. *#babysteps*

Monday 22 February

- 12:53pm Now, this is how Labour should promote Gordon Brown: <http://www.aromanthought.com/2010/02/scary-berlusconi-singalong.html> (Or not.)
- 03:42pm Refurbished local library really rather unpleasant. Awful lighting and labelling.
- 06:20pm BBC news uses headline 'D-Day for GB curlers at Olympics' before GB v Germany match. Hmm.
- 07:49pm Gosh, I haven't seen code that uses the ternary operator as a case statement for a long time. Had almost forgotten about that.
- 07:57pm By using the ternary operator as a case statement I mean this sort of malarkey: <http://pastie.textmate.org/837410>
- 08:25pm O2 seem to misunderstand me. I don't even know my phone number, how the fuck am I supposed to know what plan I'm on?

- 08:31pm "There is not enough data to analyse your bill". That's what I've been trying to tell you, I don't make phone calls. Grrr....
- 08:33pm "What, never?" "Well, I think I phoned someone in December. Wait, you're not counting people phoning me? That happened twice I think".
- 08:39pm Oh, I give up. O2, you mystify me.
- 08:55pm Sweet <http://nikkigraziano.com/foundfunctions.html> found functions
- 09:32pm Please let there be a news story about Repton 3 or Superior Software, <http://www.bbcmicronews.co.uk/> Please.
- 10:20pm "I was also pleased to see The Queen's portrait now proudly displayed ... rather than in a cupboard." <http://bit.ly/cRC6lh> Hmm...

Tuesday 23 February

- 09:32am Wondering if using the hashtags *#olympics* *#london2012* *#2012* are protected under the Olympic Symbol Act 1995? I think so...
- 09:34am "messages of support such as "come to our bar and watch the 2012 Games on the big screen" would probably infringe..."
- 09:35am "The laws relating to the 2012 Olympics are probably the most restrictive ever in their scope."
- 09:40am **@vero** <http://blogs.wsj.com/digits/2010/02/22/red-bull-verizon-tweets-run-afoul-of-olympics-rules/> I wonder about individuals though...
- 10:01am Olympic IP protection isn't that bad - <http://bit.ly/de7LjH> - largely limited to 'in course of trade'...
- 12:38pm Thinking of assembling a team of opensource vigilantes to clean up this software once and for all. Also have been reading too many comics.
- 01:06pm Next step for science to step up from calculus & stats and engage with computation theory? First, economics: <http://bit.ly/dl1DIC>
- 02:42pm I like it when Milliband says "government must be a countervailing power to vested interests". Now, about that Digital Economy Bill...

- 02:44pm Ok, this week, people, is the week 2010 gets back on track for me. Jan and Feb written off.
- 02:48pm I dread the day that Prezi becomes a popular presentation tool. I had to leave a prezi presentation last year feeling sea-sick.
- 02:57pm I can hear the neighbours' 10-week old twins crying. I bet they're at that 'will this never stop?' stage. It will! It will!
- 03:05pm Punk Rock Baby <http://www.nippazwithattitude.com/punkrockbabycd.html>
- 03:40pm I've read this three times today and I think it might be my favourite news story ever: <http://bit.ly/bRspkU> (warning, Daily Mail).
- 03:47pm **@tomtaylor** - that was the only bit of the story that made any sense to me.
- 03:51pm **@robinince** - that would just be a circle with everything, including you, in it. No need for a Venn.
- 07:25pm Finished re-reading Ian M Banks' Excession yesterday. Thinking about it all day. Had forgotten how much I enjoy his Culture novels.
- 07:26pm Am offering a free service to *#radio4* - phone me up, I'll tell you if it's 'news'. Hint: Cheryl Cole shouldn't have been a pm headline.
- 08:20pm This winds me up: <http://bit.ly/a5qBbH> Most open-source licences are built on strong copyright protection, and the respect for them.
- 08:28pm If I still had employees, I'd give them all iPads and make them present me with various reports and checklists to sign off ALL DAY LONG.
- 08:49pm The child loves his MP3 player: <http://bit.ly/dboHc9>
Although we have to listen to Heigh Ho many times a day now. "In a mine, in a mine ..."
- 09:19pm **@robertbrook** - wait. You have minions. Get them in training. Clipboards! Get more clipboards.

Wednesday 24 February

- 02:01pm Just bought a child's dustpan and broom in a lovely Angel toy shop. Shattering the boy's illusions about the joy of work early. *#babysteps*

- 04:54pm **@KentBeck** - its corollary "just break it and see what changes" is useful too.
- 05:08pm I'm not avoiding doing tedious admin, it was just suddenly very important that I find exactly the right jumper to wear. Now... footwear.
- 08:37pm Let me get this straight: the pellet with the poison's in the vessel with the pestle. The chalice from the palace has the brew that is true.
- 09:13pm **@kufena** - I totally forgot, they broke the chalice from the palace! Oh noes.

Thursday 25 February

- 04:10pm Will we ever catch on that the recommendations in Accenture reports always suggest biz. restructuring? Now who specialises in that, I wonder?
- 04:10pm Perfect example: http://www.accenture.com/Global/Research_and_Insights/By_Role/HighPerformance_IT/CIOResearch/Jumping-Boundaries.htm
- 09:10pm Child is not well so we let him mix all his fave foods together- yoghurt, date flapjacks, cheese and carrot toastie with beans. *#babysteps*
- 09:14pm We also let him sit on the sofa and watch CBBC. Waybuloo, in fact. It's a lot like season 3 of The Wire, with Yoga. *#babysteps*
- 09:54pm Definitely going to finish off my arduino projects this weekend. Hopefully the weather's nice enough for a spot of garden soldering.
- 10:05pm **@brunns** - Whatever you do, be aware of <http://www.techbelly.com/2007/07/18/quantity-theory-of-facial-hair/>
- 10:59pm Anchorman has ruined Jethro Tull for me. But in a good way. http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cBRyjMHO_Ew&feature=related
- 11:49pm Oh FFS. It can't be true that 50% of heat loss happens through the head. Think people- would you rather go out in a suit, or just in a hat?
- 11:54pm I rest my case! <http://www.guardian.co.uk/science/2008/dec/17/medicalresearch-humanbehaviour> (thanks **@jrep**)

Friday 26 February

- 12:14pm Signed petition ".. to demand a review of the out-of-date manner in which government IT projects are undertaken." <http://bit.ly/9T9c7G>
- 12:48pm There are so many gas-related roadworks in Greenwich now that they must be furiously hunting for something that's lost up one of the pipes.
- 07:26pm "Libraries, he said, could not be exempted because "this would send entirely the wrong signal"" Huh? <http://bit.ly/d284Oi>
- 09:17pm I hate the phone for all these reasons... and more: <http://theoatmeal.com/comics/phone>
- 09:29pm "Our record company is cutting off its nose to spite its face." <http://www.nytimes.com/2010/02/20/opinion/20kulash.html>

Saturday 27 February

- 12:37pm Child's Marlon Brando impersonation is so good now that if they cast Apocalypse Now with toddlers he'd be a shoo-in. *#babysteps*
- 12:43pm Is there an online equivalent of Private Eye? The Eye's lost much of its power by not being webby. I understand why they did that, though.
- 03:56pm **@chrsoz** are they as important to the national debate now? Plenty of ways to make profit.
- 03:57pm **@chrsoz** their circulation's always been much smaller than their influence. Former may be growing, latter isn't.
- 04:03pm **@chrsoz** I understand the motives, but it's a shame. We need public institutions like the Eye and the forum now the web, not the newstand.
- 04:32pm **@chrsoz** it's not really about me being able to read it, it's about it being able to be shared, linked to, etc.
- 05:11pm **@tom_watson** - poll mentioned in your blog post? http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/programmes/the_daily_politics/8538724.stm
- 05:23pm So, here's the thing. I've just re-read a book I bought in 1987. Will I be able to read my ebooks in 23 years' time?
- 05:24pm Oh, am pretty sure I will be able to read this book again in another 23 years. If I survive that long.

- 05:35pm **@chrsoz** - depends how you define suffering, right? The recent Carter-Ruck thing was made for them, but they turned up late, I think...
- 05:37pm **@chrsoz** - although they published Farrelly's question early, it didn't get them any credit.
- 05:38pm **@chrsoz** - I put that down to not having the same influence as they used to. Also, the Guardian played that well across many channels.
- 05:43pm **@chrsoz** - ah, here you go: <http://bit.ly/axvLwP> Doesn't Hislop's quote here speak volumes? Published first, but didn't ignite the fire.
- 05:44pm **@chrsoz** - I'm happy to accept that that may not be entirely down to having no internet engagement, but I think it's part of it.
- 07:18pm Fascinated by this. Did the same thing in 2002 and it bombed. <http://www.lukew.com/ff/entry.asp?1007> I think it might be the copy changes.
- 08:16pm Who are these 'professional content pirates'? No-one gets paid to upload torrents or make usenet archives, do they?
- 08:32pm **@chrsoz** - the published circulation figures predate the trafigura story. Am an Eye fan. And I think its influence should be greater online.
- 09:10pm Child loves his mp3 radio. He's now learnt to skip the tracks until it plays Heigh Ho. Have heard it many, many times this week. *#babysteps*
- 10:19pm Technically, this DSi game isn't really using the same technology as Dr Who's Tardis, but it's still pretty cool: <http://bit.ly/a3R12V>
- 10:23pm Sat right at the front of an empty DLR train today, and pretended I was Gordon Freeman. Anyone else do that? No, just me.
- 11:43pm I knew man-made climate change denial is associated with the right, but 91% of Tory PPCs and 73% of Tory MPs. Wow. Vote Blue, go green, eh?

Sunday 28 February

- 12:05am Hah! I love the way this article's headline assumes that the Mail had any credibility and that it even cares: <http://bit.ly/ddDmGp>

- 12:09am Interesting graph showing distribution of scientific opinion on man-made climate change and media coverage. <http://bit.ly/aFiZoa>
- 12:48am Wish I hadn't read this article by Nick Clegg - it's much less inspiring than the sub-editor's deck makes it sound. <http://bit.ly/df6zNb>
- 12:58am Gordon Brown's contribution is awful too. <http://bit.ly/aSMwti> Read it twice, still not clear what he's trying to say.
- 01:01am Cameron's is better written - although the structure is a bit 'rhetoric for dummies', it's effective. <http://bit.ly/brBBb2>
- 01:08am Reading Clegg's again. Someone needs to beat those clichés out of him. And those opening lines? Urrgh. 'I basically believe' - hmm...
- 11:55am **@jodrell** Yes, come round!
- 12:32pm Britain a 'complete and utter mess'? What more proof do you need? <http://bit.ly/bRspkU> Oh... wait.
- 05:46pm **@danlucraft** Ughh. Almost as bad as some of my code. Are there tests? Can it be refactored, I see much duplication?
- 07:55pm I'm finding it hard to support the BBC and its 'unique' funding. To me, it's becoming just another grubby corporation. <http://bit.ly/b1a87U>
- 09:52pm Too few legislators realise that using internet means copying. Streaming, p2p, webpages, email - all copy bytes from thither to hither.
- 10:00pm **@bongbot** - you're back! As sound as a bell, I trust.
- 10:07pm "Firewalls do not allow access to a number of sites, such as those containing Flash technology." Do they know what they're talking about?
- 10:12pm It's ridiculous to suggest that individuals have access to sufficient bandwidth to enable file-sharing (sic) and that cafés, etc. don't.
- 10:27pm My blog is copyrighted. By browsing it you copy it to your machine. If you visit it 3 times, can I get your internet cut off?
- 10:27pm Maybe I'll put a licence on there that allows copying by anyone except government IP addresses...
- 10:30pm **@chneukirchen** - Maybe I just want to read it myself. If I leave a door unlocked, can you enter my house and steal my stuff?

10:31pm **@robertbrook** - thought you were parliament. That's ok, right?

10:34pm **@threedaymonk** - it's quite amazing, isn't it. I do wonder what miss-using a connection was on page 6. Perhaps they've banned dictionaries.

10:36pm **@chneukirchen** Indeed you can. But not without committing a crime.

10:41pm Government should come clean: if you operate internet-connected wifi, there's no technical way you can prevent copy infringement.

10:58pm **@chneukirchen** - Nice. I think the point is that copyright doesn't work on the internet. Both positions can lead to absurd situations.

March

Monday 01 March

- 12:18am **@threedaymonk** - it's hard to believe that anyone with a middling level of technical competence read that document before it was published.
- 12:20am **@threedaymonk** - and it's clear this whole aspect is an afterthought. Incompetence beyond measure.
- 01:05am OneSwarm: privacy preserving peer-to-peer data sharing
<http://oneswarm.cs.washington.edu/index.html>
- 01:23am Man in box - <http://maninbox.co.uk/>
- 01:10pm I'm annoyed when journalists write that Ashcroft's donations are *only* 5% of the Tories' budget. That's a staggering amount of influence.
- 01:15pm "Digital downloading is characterised by its restrictions"
<http://bit.ly/byOfEq> Why aren't you learning from this?
- 01:16pm Wish I'd thought of this project name -<http://bitbucket.org/garybernhardt/expecter-gadget/>
- 05:24pm NatWest - thanks for offering 'free business advice' to me. Here's some for you: don't require a PC browser to apply for an account.
- 08:18pm What does it mean to say 'I'm a capitalist'? It's the system we all live within, but to identify oneself as one. Odd, if you ask me.
- 08:19pm (oh, that last post came from seeing someone calling themselves a 'capitalist' in their twitter profile).
- 08:39pm Pleased **@TCEurope** posted a rebuttal to that whiny (and somewhat odd) start-up post from a couple of weeks' ago.
<http://bit.ly/b6sdol>
- 09:14pm Mark Thompson says the BBC "has a special role to develop and back open platforms and standards." <http://bit.ly/d7XbWP> And yet...
- 09:37pm Given the lunacy at the fringes of the Tory parliamentary party, a small Tory majority would be the worst of all possible worlds.
- 11:06pm Looking at Talker as Campfire replacement. Example in this post made me laugh: <http://bit.ly/9ZEOpQ> This looks useful <http://bit.ly/9KXkgr>

Tuesday 02 March

- 12:48am Human rights are inalienable and not part of some societal rights/responsibilities comic book morality. <http://bit.ly/8Xx327> Well said.
- 12:41pm **@threedaymonk** - if it's a work machine, you're probably not entitled to enter into those agreements anyway. :)
- 12:49pm Bah, licence fee should be taken from general taxation - it's obscene that these huge salaries are paid from a regressive tax.
- 02:15pm Not a fan of BBC6Music or BBC4 - just ways of keeping excellent programming segregated. I think they're in principle bad. Sorry folks.
- 02:25pm **@threedaymonk** I think it does. I think being accidentally exposed to things outside your specific choice is an important public virtue.
- 02:25pm **@jodrell** - isn't that what I'm talking about - the idea that channels are 'full' of something is what I'm against.
- 02:34pm **@jodrell** - I was talking about the 'full of pop crap' station. It sounds to me like BBC6's ethos should be thinly spread throughout the BBC.
- 02:35pm **@jodrell** - and this 'channel for teens', 'channel for 25-45', 'channel for news' actually prevents that happening. To public detriment.
- 02:52pm **@grahamashton** I'm sure that's true. But, there are side effects. Channels become more targeted; audiences more segregated, no?
- 02:54pm **@oneplusphoto** - no, I think I'm suggesting the more channels you have, The less you're doing public broadcasting. Not very clearly, though!
- 02:58pm **@jodrell** Sure. But is that the aim of the BBC? Should it be? I don't think it's the most important aim - but I'm an elitist about this.
- 03:00pm **@threedaymonk** - exactly. I'm just saying that the existence of BBC6 and BBC4 make that a bit harder.
- 03:01pm **@jodrell** - that's an interesting idea. The BBC should make space for niches in the mainstream. Niche channels may make that harder.
- 03:17pm Bah. Have to write a blog post now. Right, where can I get mid-80s TV schedules?

- 03:19pm **@robertbrook** - I'm increasingly convinced that the TV Go Home listings were sent back from the near future. They're prophesy, not satire.
- 05:30pm Is there a big vault of unseen documentaries where they uncovered 'the true scale' of something and it was smaller than you'd think?
- 05:42pm Thinking of making a documentary to 'uncover the true scale of model trains'. I think it's conventionally 1:76 or thereabouts.
- 05:42pm Damn, just spoiled it for everyone.
- 05:48pm Oh boy, shouldn't have mentioned model trains. It was a joke - not about model trains, about documentaries. Please, be gentle, model nuts.
- 05:48pm Ok, I'm sorry, I of course mean model enthusiasts. Not my day on twitter.
- 05:56pm Tories and school budgets: remembering how the wife used to teach in a classroom with holes in the roof and floor. Here we go again...
- 08:04pm Still waiting for information about TfL's underage chain gangs: http://www.whatdotheyknow.com/request/number_of_under_16s_in_community
- 11:04pm "By introducing extra channels... the corporation has absolved its main broadcast outlets of featuring the more differentiated programming,"
- 11:07pm That's the point I was struggling to make earlier - <http://www.guardian.co.uk/media/2010/mar/02/bbc-mark-thompson-emily-bell>

Wednesday 03 March

- 12:00am What mainstream programming looked like, one night in 1973. <http://www.techbelly.com/dm.pdf> Barlow at Large looks great.
- 10:55am **@cherkoff** - like AOL all over again.
- 11:38am **@threedaymonk** - it isn't. BBC 1 used to broadcast programmes in Welsh.
- 11:44am **@cherkoff** Good arguments that search engines killed AOL. Who knows what happens next...

- 11:47am **@jodrell** - during the day. Easier with geographical transmissions, but people in Birmingham and Bristol received them too.
- 11:50am **@jodrell** - sorry, this was on TV too.
- 12:16pm **@evarley** - yes, me too. Ridiculous isn't it.
- 01:05pm Fondly remembering reading Michael Foot's biography of H.G.Wells at college. Will need to dig it out again now.
- 07:44pm **@evarley** In some ways though, it's always heartening to hear that IT consultancies are fucking it up for someone other than government.
- 07:47pm **@robertbrook** If you can get the little chap to teach you N you could play a BANANA.
- 07:58pm **@evarley** - I would bet my high teeth that it's an IT project done by one of the big IT folks (we know their names) that's blown up.
- 08:00pm Live in a pod, up a tree: <http://www.handmadecharlotte.com/treetents/>
- 08:20pm One of our favourite films is available on iPlayer right now: http://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/b00r0sf7/The_Lives_of_Others/
- 11:41pm **@wycats** Builder being of course the name of one of the other patterns from the GoF book. Hmm.

Thursday 04 March

- 12:19am "At no time have I condoned the use of drugs." <http://www.27bslash6.com/5pm.html>
- 03:50pm **@lazyatom** - I'm not sure that's how they work. You might assume that MSFT may be providing things at a large loss to themselves. though.
- 04:42pm The way we legislate needs a big whack with the jewelled mace of agility. Seeing lots of integration problems.
- 11:54pm I'm as shocked as you are. But it looks like the greens are shaping up to be the sanest choice in the coming election.

Friday 05 March

- 12:14am Which type of crowd are you.. um, I mean me... no, us... uh no, them... <http://bit.ly/dg583Y> (ht **@jaggeree**)

- 12:25am Daily Mail: an "unwieldy amalgam of mystics, racists, hypochondriacs and pornography enthusiasts" <http://bit.ly/cxjpYj>
- 12:29am I have no clue where Sainsbury's is in Greenwich, but Zuma was there: <http://bit.ly/aJAeAP> Personally, I'd have gone to the observatory.
- 12:31am Hmm - it seems unlikely that Zuma was as keen as this press release suggests: <http://bit.ly/aP8jJu> Can't have been his idea, methinks.
- 12:45am It amazes me that people expected more of Carole Vorderman - the loan shark's favourite figurehead. *#bbcqt*
- 12:49am Hey, by the way BBC, how can it take you longer to get QT up on iPlayer than it takes those pesky pirates to get it out?
- 12:51am I mean, these people have probably spent all of.. um... nothing... on their systems, maybe £40 for a tuner card. Makes no sense.
- 01:13am I could listen to the start of Kirsty Maccoll's A New England again. In fact I will. Here you go, Spotifying stalkers: <http://bit.ly/9e9Gb2>
- 01:17am Shivering, slight temperature and wanting to listen to Johnny Marr. No Smiths albums on Spotify???? Feeling ripped off.
- 01:32am **@oneplusphoto** so, Question Time has still not appeared on iPlayer. Someone ripped it, uploaded it, and I've watched it in the meantime...
- 01:34am Thinking about all the music that made me as I grew up. I hope the child finds as faithful a friend. An occasional, but enduring joy now.
- 01:36am Uhoh - hitting the David Bowie. I promise I won't play Life on Mars twenty times and get maudlin.
- 12:08pm Found a copy of the Telegraph on the train yesterday - reminded me of this bonkers but also rather excellent letter. <http://bit.ly/aQvNBI>
- 01:34pm In some ways, you have to miss Dubya: "I know the human being and fish can coexist peacefully" <http://bit.ly/9S1HKI>
- 01:42pm RT **@glennngillen**: **@beng** I assume you've seen this? <http://bit.ly/cudBxQ> (More Bushisms and an explanation)
- 03:25pm Is there no-one at the BBC who knows what open source means? <http://bit.ly/9RB38b> Starting to get embarrassing.
- 03:30pm **@nevali** - oh, indeed.

- 03:35pm **@nevali** yes, am aware. And grateful.
- 05:38pm It's the weasel words, not the DRM, from the BBC that's particularly insulting.
- 05:55pm Have written to my MP: "There is no technical solution that can prevent copyright infringement while providing wifi access to the internet".
- 06:02pm **@citizensheep** I reckon Power Ballads from the 80s. Jennifer Rush. Maybe Poison.
- 06:23pm **@jrep** - ah, different issue. I'm writing to my MP about this: <http://bit.ly/bt2pK4>
- 06:28pm **@jrep** - there's no provision in the bill that says that you're in the clear if you take reasonable measures to tackle infringement.
- 06:29pm **@jrep** - am writing to my MP to ensure that he doesn't support the bill while that's the case.
- 06:32pm **@jrep** - yes, but that part of the process is now, more or less, concluded.
- 06:50pm While it lasts: <http://interactive.bis.gov.uk/digitalbritain/> shows "Error establishing a database connection"
- 06:51pm That about sums it up.
- 07:13pm <http://interactive.bis.gov.uk/digitalbritain/> still down.
- 07:43pm Wondering if the digitalbritain site has been put offline just in case it breaches copyright. Cmon guys, it's been down an hour now.
- 07:49pm "Police will have powers to enter private homes and seize posters." The olympics is a state-pimped commercial gangbang <http://bit.ly/9fyNe4>
- 08:18pm What happened to Transputers? I thought they were going to take over the world. Weren't they going to save South Wales at some point too?
- 09:08pm Digital Britain site is still down. 2 hours.

Saturday 06 March

- 08:45am Seriously, chaps, has the Digital Britain site been down all night? 13 hours offline? Is it just me who gets an error? <http://bit.ly/95Mk2A>
- 06:48pm The child has the first of many, many grazed knees. Being very brave about it too. *#babysteps*

11:53pm The child's astronaut training is progressing well. <http://tinyurl.com/ybusqfk> Next week maybe some low g work on the park roundabout.

Sunday 07 March

07:50pm **@threedaymonk** - old 1st gen iphone any good?

07:59pm **@threedaymonk** - I have no idea; has a bit of a dodgy screen, but is otherwise fine. Are you at **@lrug** on weds? If so, will bring it along.

08:03pm Things that don't work in space #21: paperweights

09:22pm Ordered this <http://www.thetroublewithphysics.com/> after it was recommended in a pub. That's right folks, in meatspace. No SEM required.

09:24pm How silly of Ed Vaizey to even suggest that a wife might not vote the same way as her husband. How silly of the media to pick him up on it.

11:39pm **@maccman** no. In closure, variable references are bound, not values.

Monday 08 March

12:02am **@maccman** - there are many advantages to having functions that close over the same lexical environment - it's not really for optimisation.

12:55am "Mrs Cameron is not a natural Labour supporter – but she was a black-clad ‘goth’ in her teens." Um ok, Daily Mail, you've convinced me...

12:58am **@oneplusiphoto** Yes I think we should be told how their children, their mistresses, their maids and their manservants vote too....

01:04am **@oneplusiphoto** frankly, it would be easier if there were a vote per household. The man of the house is usually best placed to make the call.

04:18pm Have escaped new office - bloody cold there; am guessing heating pumps affected by power cut.

05:58pm Watching child eat his way through a babybel... before suddenly realising he's eaten the wax too. Uhoh. *#babysteps*

- 07:03pm "He could write this theories with unicorn blood and I'd still take him as serious as if he used comic sans." <http://vimeo.com/8194089>
- 08:00pm **@chrismdp** Zork <http://www.techbelly.com/2009/11/13/play-if-in-campfire/>
- 08:05pm **@chrismdp** - oh. My bad. I'll fix that. I guess pasties don't last forever.
- 09:08pm Let me put it this way: I'd only give you my phone number if you'd promise never to phone me. You see? That's why you can't have it.
- 09:54pm BBC news asks 'who would you give the Oscar to?' Surely 'to whom would you give the Oscar'? Getting out my green pen.
- 09:55pm I'm guessing they didn't know where to put the apostrophe in Venables either - http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/talking_point/default.stm
- 09:57pm **@threedaymonk** - it's not the hanging participle with which I have a problem (!) - more the case of who.
- 09:59pm **@threedaymonk** - admittedly, I don't care that much.

Tuesday 09 March

- 12:03am **#ebz** I've gone to Fallen London! <http://www.failbettergames.com/echobazaar>
- 01:58am Video made me laugh. <http://bit.ly/aSfGFX> (One of the worst engineers I've come across scored 90-odd % on their java certification).
- 12:13pm Oh boy. "You need a paper licence to link to Royal Mail" <http://www.malcolmcoles.co.uk/blog/link-royal-mail/>
- 12:39pm **@knaveofdiamonds** oh yeah? <http://www.out-law.com/page-5609> Oh look, the law's an ass.
- 12:40pm **@knaveofdiamonds** it's hard to believe that the courts would come down against hyperlinking, but, who knows?
- 02:57pm **@threedaymonk** - I believe that's technically known as the Scunthorpe error.
- 03:12pm **@jodrell** - I believe it was actually Scabbagethorpe. How we laughed.
- 03:39pm RT **@fidothe**: Via someone or other: <http://bit.ly/9ds9e2> -- youtube shuts down for the night.

- 05:32pm There seem to be very confused ideas about when to provide an API to access government data versus just publishing the data as, say, CSV.
- 05:36pm Some clues: a Gb of data is no longer a big data-set; historical data does not need timely updates; API keys not required to measure usage.
- 07:11pm I don't understand why Adobe wouldn't want people disassembling flash files. Imagine how small the web would be without 'view source'.
- 08:27pm <http://bit.ly/ayucun> Um, this is proper Tory logic: be kind to monopolies while talking up market-led competition. Barmy. (via **@currybet**)
- 08:28pm Not that Labour's much better on the monopolist front, but they don't seem as two-faced to me on these issues.
- 08:40pm Beards? "while the chin-borne cumulus of the Victorian patriarchs may have blown away, they continue to be worn" <http://tinyurl.com/yc53sc6>
- 08:41pm Goaties? "these jazz-bearders are, of course, unconsciously copying the appearance of female genitals" <http://tinyurl.com/yc53sc6>
- 09:06pm **@robertbrook** - this may now be my favourite found poetry: <http://www.drunkenboat.com/db10/08poe/rambo/blood.html>
- 10:09pm Have just watched a 15-minute video with my headphones on, but not plugged in. Was wondering why it sounded muffled. Still, warm ears.
- 10:16pm I remember a book about BASIC with cartoon illustrations by, I think, Bill Tidy. Did I dream that? Why am I asking twitter and not google?
- 10:38pm Ok, so Bill Tidy is on twitter. Maybe I should ask him. But... <http://twitter.com/BillTidy/status/9846331830>
- 10:39pm **@BillTidy** - I remember an early 80s computer programming book that you illustrated. Do I remember rightly? I can't remember the title.
- 10:59pm Amazing. A shop that only sells bigger-than-it-should-be stuff <http://tinyurl.com/yeyk3ws>

Wednesday 10 March

- 12:10am **@sanewolf** - just before, not for very long and just as a trial run.

- 12:22am @sanewolf yes, I've been trying to work out when. 1999 I think.
- 01:32am That mouthy woman from Tesco, complaining about school-leavers' literacy rates, should read this: <http://bit.ly/9q0aGP>
- 01:32am "Only three countries, Singapore, Chinese Taipei, and Hong Kong had scores that were statistically significantly higher than England's."
- 01:33am (Oops I mean numeracy rates - literacy's a different link).
- 03:03am Reading that beards are coming back into fashion - I remember the last time this happened. Didn't end well.
- 11:56am Looking forward to @lrug tonight.
- 02:19pm Left the house. Only a few hours later than planned...
- 03:09pm Finding <http://www.newstatesman.com> better and better these days.
- 03:18pm Extremely odd public service advert - a photoshopped female doctor. Does that improve clickthroughs? DOES IT? <http://twitpic.com/17qefd>
- 03:35pm I like the content of @unclebobmartin's Clean Code. Lots of good stuff within. The tone is a bit wearing after a while, though.
- 05:25pm Gosh, I really do wave my arms about a lot when I'm talking: http://rubymanoir.org/harder/videos/short_order_ruby/ Horrific.

Thursday 11 March

- 12:42am Yay for @lrug. Good talks, good beer, good chat with fond friends, usual not-built-for-networking failures; missed last train home.
- 12:45am This looks interesting: http://www.cs.brown.edu/people/acb/codebubbles_site.htm (terribly flat presentation though).
- 01:09am @jrep oh, I've not come across it before. Seemed very much informed by tagging and loose hierarchies. I assumed an interweb sensibility.
- 01:14am @jrep I mean, you're surely right. It felt very modern though. I'm probably just a sucker for round corners.
- 01:15am @jrep - oh wait. Was rounded corners 2004?

- 01:16am What the hell is this nonsense, and poorly written nonsense at that, doing on the BBC? <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/business/8551808.stm>
- 01:17am I say nonsense I mean publicly-funded advertisement for a patent vampire.
- 07:41am Kryptonian amounts of coffee required today. Then... to war!!!
- 03:45pm 10 minutes until we head to the Home Office to present our work. Folks typing very, very quickly now. *#jha*

Friday 12 March

- 09:50am "The State Department will ... support new circumvention technologies for dissidents whose connections to the open Internet are blocked."
- 09:53am "The freedom to connect is like the freedom of assembly, only in cyberspace."
- 11:56am "Overall, the music industry grew by an amazing 4.7% in recession-ridden 2008." <http://bit.ly/9ruCkb> But, the pirates! the pirates!
- 12:27pm Wow, the new Playstation controller contains a "terrestrial magnetic field sensor". That'll be a compass, then.
- 01:41pm Hungover.
- 03:53pm Revelation of the day: no-one can stop you naming your projects after dinosaurs.
- 03:59pm **@hlame** - I wish my middle name was Drinker http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edward_Drinker_Cope
- 04:33pm Photo prints ordered from Apple all came back in the wrong order. How rubbish. Supasnaps don't do that.
- 08:01pm The ONS website seems to have SQL injection holes - at least there's SQL in hidden form fields. This is really bad. Who should we tell?
- 08:14pm **@oneplusphoto** - hah. I was in the pub with him last night. Should've told him then.
- 08:18pm **@oneplusphoto** hah. Didn't mean it like that. But on reflection, yes. Sorry.
- 08:50pm **@DirDigEng** There are details on this rewired state post from a year ago - I confirmed that it's still a problem today. <http://bit.ly/aT92D2>

- 08:52pm **@DirDigEng** - I can't send you a direct link unfortunately, as the pages it occurs on aren't bookmarkable, either.
- 08:52pm **@threedaymonk** - and you're not concerned that the part of the building housing the fire alarm has collapsed in the fire? I always wonder...
- 08:58pm **@DirDigEng** - many thanks for looking into this. Has saved me writing a green ink letter, probably to the wrong person.
- 09:06pm The child was so pleased to see me this morning. And me him. Will try not to be out two days in a row in future.
#babysteps
- 09:08pm Going to spend all day with the child tomorrow. Where shall we go? London is our playground.
- 09:26pm "Not everyone checks every shoe for corpses every single morning. Do they?" <http://bit.ly/bW5kdu>
- 09:51pm I notice the BBC has started saying 'the micro-blogging service, twitter'. Surely more people understand twitter than micro-blogging?
- 09:52pm **@floehopper** - yes, I passed on paul's blog post to **@dirdigeng** and he's going to pass it on. Confirmed it was still a problem this morning.
- 09:53pm **@robertbrook** - I thought it might be the 'sticky-back plastic' of the moden age. I only realised they meant sellotape in my twenties...
- 10:46pm "This video contains content from Channel 4, who has blocked it in your country on copyright grounds."
- 10:51pm **@nevali** - I guess channel 4 haven't licensed YouTube the right to show it in the UK. It's the BrassEye subliminal advertising clip, so ...
- 10:51pm **@nevali** - ... it's certainly illegal to broadcast it in the UK.
- 10:52pm **@nevali** - yeah. But you know. Only people like us ask questions.
- 10:55pm **@nevali** - Oh, I misspoke. It was a Derren Brown clip, not BrassEye. <http://bit.ly/cTsFO7>
- 10:56pm **@nevali** - so maybe I did see it, but I just think I didn't. Like Superman IV.
- 11:24pm Feel peckish, walk to kitchen, get yoghurt, walk back to office. On the way back, I lose the yoghurt. I've always been this absent-minded.

- 11:25pm Now, hunting for yoghurt that I must have put down somewhere between the office and the kitchen.
- 11:27pm On the plus side, have found some Cheddar biscuits. Will stuff my face with them instead.
- 11:29pm Ahah! Have found yoghurt. Must have put it back in the fridge, it has the spoon with it. In the fridge. Thanks for listening.

Saturday 13 March

- 01:05am "It's tragic and disturbing. But c'est la guerre." <http://bit.ly/9JWkWA>
- 01:14am The more I think about it the more I dislike the ASBOrometer iphone app. An awful, titillating & tabloid waste of good data. Must do better.
- 12:35pm @kufena - he looks a bit pail. (I'm sorry. So very sorry).
- 01:02pm Oi government folk, I can't scratch my development itch if it takes 3 working days to get a API key to check out your API. Stop doing this.
- 01:11pm "Your request has been sent to our Syndication team who will contact you within 3 working days with an access code."
- 01:21pm Invoicing software won't let me set Payment Terms to 'whenever' - probably just as well.

Sunday 14 March

- 12:32am Poor wheezy little boy staying overnight in hospital. In good spirits though, he's in a room with lots of robots on the walls.
- 07:03pm Back from visiting child and wife in hospital. In for another night, unfortunately. Hospital jelly for tea was a hit though. #babysteps
- 07:08pm @jaggeree thanks Chris.
- 07:15pm The child thinks every chair should be a rocking chair. I think he may have a point. #babysteps
- 07:19pm Designing playgrounds must be a lovely excellent challenging job. <http://bit.ly/auts0N>

- 09:08pm The only places I watch TV now are in doctors' waiting rooms and chip shops. This is colouring my attitude to the medium.
- 09:12pm I mean broadcast TV, of course. Watch drama series and films all the time.
- 10:11pm Was going to write a blog post about the inevitable rise of tabloid data journalism. But the weekend seems to have got away from me.
- 11:23pm Cameron would also storm... any fancy-dress contest that involved guests rigging up as "a C-3PO made of ham".
<http://bit.ly/aT1Xqz>
- 11:56pm "In a SANDSTORM of WEEVILS, we've got to BE THE OCTOPUS!" <http://bit.ly/dsi1US>

Monday 15 March

- 12:31am Searched for 'childrens sofa' on mydeco.com. Spot the odd one out. Mostly, I hate ecommerce. <http://twitpic.com/18nly5>
- 12:32am Yeah, apparently those were 'Our favourite kids (sic) sofas'. Really? You haven't actually looked at them, have you?
<http://bit.ly/a1P2WL>
- 12:59am Really not sure if I can be arsed to keep my LinkedIn network up to date.
- 12:07pm Refused to celebrate this american pi-day. Will wait for 31/4 (!) or 22/7. Pi is of course a British constant.
- 03:18pm Still waiting for information about TfL's child chain gangs:
<http://bit.ly/cbTZLv>
- 08:10pm Yay! Wife and child home from hospital - child very pleased to find ukulele. "Play, daddy. play". *#babysteps*
- 08:23pm **@threedaymonk** - is that right? Don't you want the array to mutate itself?
- 08:28pm **@threedaymonk** - ah, I see. Missed the n in your example and assumed you were making a point about returning a new array. Dumbass me.
- 09:28pm **@threedaymonk** <http://bit.ly/dsi1US>
- 09:42pm **@hubmum @issyl0** - this book <http://bit.ly/cHroZz> is available online. You can dm me if something doesn't make sense.

- 11:54pm Cardboard desk - <http://www.cardboardfuture.com/products/the-paperweight-desk.php> Great for some gonzo office work.
- 11:58pm Man, I hate ecommerce. Did I say that already. Today's bugbear: sites that have only a single category for "Kids and Pets".

Tuesday 16 March

- 12:56am "Sorry, this programme is not available to watch again."
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b00hd5mf> Thank-you pirates for making available.
- 01:11am I wonder if the BBC still thinks that "the solution is to move beyond DRM"... <http://bit.ly/caphuJ>
- 08:21am **@abscond** my word of the week is pterosaur. Much better. PS: your bag's in BERG.
- 11:07am Spent 15 years putting stuff in databases on the net - now spend my whole life scraping stuff off the web and into dbs. Not complaining.
- 05:59pm **@bengoldacre** - I'm waiting for an FOI response on TfL's child-labour chain gangs - <http://tinyurl.com/y9ud8c2>
- 08:00pm I know someone at SXSW. Same chap who used to harrangue everyone about being green. Now, carbon-spewing his arse across the Atlantic. Shame.
- 09:02pm Making things faster.
- 09:39pm Hmm - there are 328,000 records to create. I guess it's not really going to be that quick, ever.
- 09:47pm **@fidothe** - blaming you for what is essentially a theological problem would be a bit churlish.
- 10:27pm **@jodrell** - typical db admin question. It's not all about size...

Wednesday 17 March

- 08:04am Commuter trains. Dead eyes and nodding ragdoll heads. Am I awake or having a nightmare?
- 08:55am Such a qualitative difference between being funded by a non-dom colonial billionaire baron and a million-member democratic trade union. No?

- 08:56am As the new TLDs roll out, you can hear the sound of a billion regular expressions dying.
- 08:58am **@elderberry** tweeting? You? Curious.
- 09:04am **@johannhari101** - when I read your blog in Google Reader, some of the posts appear without any paragraph breaks.
- 09:11am Nick Cohen's rambling rants deserve more mockery like this: <http://bit.ly/bzLVVF>
- 01:30pm Have just sent (yet another) letter to my MP about the Digital Economy Bill. Please do the same: <http://bit.ly/bMf46c>
- 08:00pm Reading this API documentation it's clear that the author was either illiterate or on strong medication. Bloody awful. Worse than nothing.
- 08:08pm "To implement our feeds..." Um, surely it's you who should be doing the implementation. Fucking awful.
- 08:09pm "You can now implement this into your pages using server or client side." Huh?
- 08:14pm The second half of the document was ok - must have been written by a different person. A relief.
- 08:16pm Wondering how much of my brain I'd have to have removed before I'd be happy to be represented by the BCS.
- 10:20pm SVGtastic.
- 11:58pm <http://friendfeed.com/search?q=%23babysteps+from%3Atecbelly>

Thursday 18 March

- 09:21am Bah. Stuck on train outside London Bridge. New timetable was supposed to have fixed this...
- 10:14am **@floehopper** - did I just hear you say 'rollback'. What is this word?
- 10:30am **@nevali** - I'd bet there's an inverse relationship between broadband speed and tolerance for p2p speeds; ie. broadband encourages streaming.
- 10:31am **@nevali** - also, if you don't need to slowly slurp down a whole season of a programme overnight, you'll consume less.

- 10:31am **@nevali** - it's not just a wrong formula, it's clearly backwards.
- 01:52pm **@lukeredpath** - I'm going to continue the stuff I was doing at the previous hack-day using NHS data.
- 01:52pm **@lukeredpath** <http://rewiredstate.org/projects/bbc-+-data-gov-uk-mashup>
- 02:44pm Journey from the Swamp of POX to the glory of HATEOApS - <http://martinfowler.com/articles/richardsonMaturityModel.html> REST maturity model.
- 05:26pm Another fine SVGtastic day. Went to infinity, and beyond.
- 06:19pm I really haven't changed that much over the years... <http://yfrog.com/5bqbxj>
- 07:43pm No corporate presentations at this conference. Excellent: <http://bit.ly/ccGVhS> (via **@monkchips**)
- 07:48pm Two ipads. Bluetooth Battleships. Killer app. Can someone make it please. Oh, and Guess who!
- 07:55pm On the side of HP sauce bottle: 'manufactured in the Netherlands'. Manufactured? Also disappointed to find the most British of sauces Dutch.
- 08:09pm Bloody hell. Astounding claims. To think our parliament's legislating to give these media crooks power: <http://bit.ly/9Y5Ucd> *#debill*
- 08:31pm "It leaves only 3d. or 4d. after buying a bottle of H.P. sauce and a stick of candy floss." <http://bit.ly/9AgdMq>
- 09:01pm Another fucking government.aspx website. Another fucking broken, useless, buggy, pointless 'data download tool'. Frustrated.
- 09:01pm Who builds these things, and aren't they ashamed of themselves?
- 09:38pm Some of those chocolate fingers must have evaporated, or been eaten by a gerbil, or stolen by elves. I didn't eat a whole box, oh no...

Friday 19 March

- 08:48am I've been awake at this time every day this week. Shocking. Feeling shrivelled.
- 01:21pm **@danlucraft** I'll work on that!

- 01:34pm Motoring - 1350 articles scraped from NHS choices website, forget NoSQL this is NoAPI #rsdg
- 01:34pm Motoring - 1350 articles scraped from NHS choices website, forget NoSQL this is NoAPI #rsdgl
- 05:24pm Fixed the links to medical papers on BBC news for my Rewired State hack. @bengoldacre would be proud. #rsdgl
- 05:38pm @bengoldacre <http://bit.ly/aMCECg> - will eventually package as firefox/chrome plugin toolbar thingy.
- 10:19pm Cheese toastie. That is all.
- 10:24pm We're not living in a police state. Oh no. <http://bit.ly/b64Auy>
- 10:27pm I'm sure that, in the long of human history, better cheese toasties have been made. But, not many.

Saturday 20 March

- 02:56pm Wondering just how fucked up you's end up if you lived your life entirely according to the Daily Mail health section.
- 02:58pm 90 minutes until we present our projects to the bosses. Using coffee to keep adrenaline level somewhere between awake and coronary. #rsdgl
- 05:15pm One of these days, I'm going to get over my fear of presenting. Although, adrenaline is good, right?
- 06:40pm Amazing. @1jh made a parliamentary bill difference analyser. It just works. Many have tried this and failed. Dead impressive. #nbtg #rsdgl
- 06:44pm Wondering if some of these young rewired state chaps are actually hundreds-of-years old vampires. #rsdgl #nbtg

Sunday 21 March

- 01:36pm Oh boy. Hangover something like 7.4 on the richter scale. Please, be vey very quiet.
- 01:39pm @hubmum doing it right now. Please keep your voice down.
- 02:19pm @grahamashton @premasagar @sshingler <http://bit.ly/c4Y8MS>

03:24pm Hmm. Just got a friend request from Facebook. I disabled my account a while ago. What gives?

03:38pm **@bengoldacre** - <http://bit.ly/bVItUx> - will launch something publicly this week.

05:23pm So... what did I do at Rewired State? This: <http://rewiredstate.org/projects/nhs-toolbar>

07:28pm What's a good reliable QR reader for the iPhone? Dear lazyweb, hear my plea.

09:19pm New Luc Besson film looks dead silly. Zombies, pterodactyls, camels. Hope it gets international release. <http://bit.ly/a3KZY0>

10:02pm The iPhone remembers all the past alarm times I've set. So, I know that tomorrow, I'm getting up earlier than I ever have before...

10:30pm **@aubergene** yes, as it happens! I'll follow you on twitter instead.

11:02pm Heh heh heh: <http://bit.ly/ayhXut>

Monday 22 March

06:45am Am moving in the wrong professional circles - will never get to be an astronaut at this rate.

06:54am Train is full of people reading self-help books. Scary.

08:05am At *#bbdf*. Lots of tall people here - good genetic stock, I'd warrant.

08:10am Gordon Brown talking about semantic web. Who'd have thought it? *#bbdf*

08:13am Brown talks about 100% access to Internet while passing legislation to disconnect users. *#debill #bbdf*

08:20am Shares in Nigel Shadbolt's semantic web companies must be rocketing today... *#bbdf*

08:22am Free data will be a condition of future transport franchises. Excellent. *#bbdf*

08:23am Gordon brown said widget. Oh yes... *#bbdf*

08:27am Uhoh - announcement of a big mygov project, Accenture and EDS just woke up. *#bbdf*

08:37am Number 10 iPhone application. PR fluff. Sigh. Obviously not prioritising final third... *#bbdf*

08:46am Digital Economy Bill is seriously damaging government's reputation on digital issues. *#bbdf*

10:39am **@hubmum** - was he being pursued by an asteroid?

11:10am Dear twitter, more followers needed for **@aliceeleanor8** - the statistician-at-large at **@rewiredstate** this weekend *#rsdgl #nbtg*

11:58am All this Tim Lane-Fox and Martha Berners-Lee stuff makes me think I might be a surname short of greatness.

12:28pm **@aliceeleanor8** see? Am networking genius. :)

12:38pm **@grahamashton** - good work, sir.

01:23pm I'm sure no-one's going to post some copyrighted content to *#cashgordon* and then send a DCMA take-down... That would be wrong, right?

01:24pm Oh, *#cashgordon*'s site is a .com and AFAICT hosted in the states. In case you were wondering why DCMA is appropriate.

01:25pm DMCA I mean. Bloody acronyms.

01:28pm **@nevali** - would that make them think twice about blocking content? Probably not. But....

01:39pm On days like these, I do indeed love the internet.

02:09pm I'm taking *#cash-gordon* as the exemplar of the post-bureaucratic age - 'where the information revolution meets conservatism', as Dave says.

02:13pm Or rather, if the PBE is "where the information revolution meets conservatism"; I'd say the information revolution won round 1. *#cashgordon*

02:15pm The Tories should be thankful that the 4chan haven't woken up yet. *#cashgordon*

03:34pm RT **@megpickard**: Anatomy of the *#cashgordon* hashtag: <http://bit.ly/9zn9WG> <- brilliant

05:10pm You know those projects where you give a ridiculous spec to the client, hoping they'll reject it? The Shard building must have been one.

05:13pm This new web-sciences institute should have a few hackers-in-residence. I'm up for it...

05:17pm **@jaggeree** bah. Am too thick to use RDF. Am waiting for Visual RDF.

- 05:58pm Someone should tell the people handing out the Times at Moorgate tube that free is no business model, Murdoch said so.
- 06:01pm Oh **@currybet** says it's just a promo, not the whole paper, which presumably is hidden behind the pay wall. <http://bit.ly/a6x74j>
- 08:07pm Blimey. This *#cashgordon* thing wasn't only a social media slip-up. They hired some utterly clueless cowboys to build them a website.
- 08:08pm Bloody stupid to think an unmoderated twitter feed was anything but asking for trouble though. *#cashgordon*
- 08:15pm Seriously, would anyone really trust the Tories with their facebook login details after today? Please, stay away from this site to be safe.
- 08:23pm Someone less biased than me please tell the Tories that it's utterly irresponsible to have relaunched that site without a full pen test.
- 08:24pm I mean, there must be a big question mark over the developers' abilities to write secure code. The site is asking for people's passwords.
- 08:24pm Seriously chaps, time to man up and do the responsible thing. And that's not to relaunch that site.
- 08:25pm **@SamuelCoates** - <http://bit.ly/9GKaWw> <http://bit.ly/cVgcDK> <http://bit.ly/bLiiaR> Please do the right thing here.
- 09:03pm Told you: <http://bit.ly/cCc0Ry> (ok, will wait until there's proper science to look at...)

Tuesday 23 March

- 07:50am RT **@delineator**: suspect RDF will lead to worse proprietary software vendor lock-in than doc and pdf formats ...
- 07:53am RT **@oneplusphoto**: i hate the dyson airblade hand driers. the experience kind of reminds me of peter duncan in that bit in flash gordon.
- 08:11am Hoon, Byers and Hewitt deserve to rot away in abject poverty. They won't of course. Can't we send them to jail?
- 10:47am Having coffee in the city. So many suits it's like being at a funeral. But without the free food.

- 11:37am Big fan of the clean urls on last.fm. Which is just as well, I find the site so hard to navigate I always end up manually changing the url.
- 12:59pm Have written to Harriet Harman MP to demand full parliamentary scrutiny of the disastrous Digital Economy Bill. <http://bit.ly/bJ3HwF>
- 01:53pm **@kufena** misread your tweet - thought you were dining on bear. Beer is better though.
- 01:56pm A really odd definition of 'volunteering' here: <http://vorg.vinspired.com/earn-your-travel-back>
- 01:57pm **@DaveHill** - thought you might be interested in these numbers from TfL <http://bit.ly/9l2ZrR>
- 01:58pm TfL have answered my FOI request about their teenage chain-gangs. Um, I mean volunteers, who have not been threatened. <http://bit.ly/9l2ZrR>
- 02:04pm Child just phoned me - odd conversation since his favourite words today are 'doctor', 'turkey', 'moat' and 'laptop' *#babysteps*
- 02:18pm Spent all your money on 'all I got was a t-shirt' conferences? Here are some free videos from a proper ruby conference: <http://bit.ly/dkDXNO>
- 02:24pm **@jaggeree** <http://bit.ly/aANC1V>
- 02:29pm I've tweeted this before, but I love this story about crazy underhand dinosaur hunters. <http://bit.ly/dv9qRk>
- 02:40pm RT **@commentisfree**: Pedantabulous! RT **@jemimakiss**: Are you responsible for this, **@tomkiss**? <http://isinviteanoun.com/> <- ... and quote too.
- 03:10pm I find myself interested in JetBrains' MPS, but not interested enough to try it out. <http://bit.ly/ayrqBV>
- 03:17pm "It took me a total of three minutes and thoughts of suicide to assign a simple destination using MS Sync." <http://bit.ly/baJXyv>
- 03:24pm Am thinking about the Demosthenes method - wouldn't be the first time: <http://bit.ly/9rvUOO>
- 04:49pm RT **@delineator**: "TSO will own all intellectual property rights in the Ideas [that you submit]" *#doingitwrong* **@TSOTechnology**
- 04:54pm Why on earth would I submit an idea when your terms immediately claim "all intellectual rights" in it? **@TSOTechnology @charlesarthur**

- 04:59pm Anyone thinking of entering the TSO *#openup* competition is strongly advised to read their awful terms and conditions, and then not enter.
- 05:04pm **@charlesarthur** <http://bit.ly/bWMCRI> clause 23, et. al.
- 05:24pm **@charlesarthur** - well at least they didn't assign them to Nigel Shadbolt. Still, needs changing.
- 05:49pm Since changing my linkedin job description to 'demigod' the oddest people have tried to connect to me.
- 06:10pm Hmm. Shall I go to rewired culture at the weekend? Need a good idea.
- 07:28pm Teenage mothers? Mindhacks points to a study that implies we'd be better off if there were more of them.
<http://bit.ly/baRgm0>
- 08:01pm I think it lovely that Brian May has adopted the badger cause. We should all campaign for our own look-a-likey animals <http://bit.ly/aVsFQH>
- 08:38pm "Given the quality of the forgeries, it was "highly likely" that they were made by an intelligence service." Um, because, um, we do it too?
- 08:58pm Can't help thinking that in the UK, we'd have medicated this genius into a dull normalcy or given him an ASBO.
<http://tinyurl.com/y9gcxrq>
- 09:12pm Lowered the seat on the child's high-chair tonight. He could barely see over the edge of his plate. Will raise it again tomorrow. *#babysteps*
- 09:20pm Watching the twitter stream for the planning decision to use Greenwich park for London 2012. <http://bit.ly/9mzDDC>
- 09:25pm How fucking amazing is it that I'm following tweets coming from inside Greenwich Council planning meeting? Any newspapers there? Who cares?
- 11:16pm RT **@darryl1974**: BREAKING NEWS: Greenwich Council planning board backs Olympics in Greenwich Park 10-2. <-- Bah. Not good.

Wednesday 24 March

- 09:22am I always find myself in two minds about teaching coding in school. Don't want it done badly, but can't bring myself to believe it essential.

- 09:26am Post-16, though, computer science should be a real and academic choice that you can make without it being a word-processor skill course.
- 09:33am Altogether now. "I never thought it would happen, with me and the girl from Clapham..." <http://bit.ly/cv1bEI>
- 09:37am **@misteredavey** Oh sure, I believe that there's scope. But I can't bring myself to promote it above everything else.
- 10:34am Wondering how **@alicecleanor8** is getting on - her first day as guardian intern today. Nervous for her.
- 11:35am Thinking of submitting an idea to TSO OpenUp - "Relaunch competition when you've come up with less restrictive Ts & Cs". **@TSOTechnology**
- 11:36am Seriously, **@TSOTechnology**, the competition is a great idea. But your terms and conditions are terribly restrictive. Can't you change them?
- 11:58am Feign shock and then disgust please. These terrible machines must go. <http://bit.ly/ccctIF>
- 12:11pm Avoiding FT's puzzle-wall. Follow link to FT page -> denied access -> note the page title -> google it -> follow link -> access granted.
- 12:27pm Adele Goldberg wrote the book and the software that changed my ambitions and made me love computers. <http://bit.ly/ayqk7X> *#ald10*
- 12:33pm **@robertbrook** Hmm. I don't see vellum in your list of technologies. Surely that's not very parliamentary? JPEG -> calf hide -> HTML.
- 01:08pm My favourite programming pattern: an instance variable called type and every method with a case or if statement in it. Who thinks like this?
- 01:17pm Looks like Sunday's the last day to relive those teenage 'passing out in the park, vomiting cheap cider into a bin' glory days.
- 01:34pm The announcement on People's Bank accounts will do more for digital inclusion than anything else. Does anyone offer PAYG broadband?
- 01:37pm PAYG home broadband I mean - with a card that you can top up like a leccy meter?
- 02:19pm When we lose free wi-fi in the UK, will all those clever geo-location wifi things stop working too? Thanks, government. No really, thanks.

- 02:33pm Reading reports on the DCMS website. Eyes glazing over. Is there a google translate service for civil-service speak?
- 02:47pm **@robertbrook** - ooh. Introductions to people I don't know. Will follow them. **@marxculture** and **@understood**
- 02:51pm What a wonderful thing **@understood** is doing at <http://www.simplyunderstand.com> (thanks **@robertbrook** for intro).
- 02:58pm **@marxculture** - it's not so bad. I understand you need a certain amount of jargon - mostly readable. Just having a moan.
- 02:59pm **@marxculture** - trying to absorb this at the minute:
<http://www.culture.gov.uk/images/research/CultureOnDemandSum.pdf>
- 03:36pm Need a better idea for this weekend's rewired state than putting betting offices on a google map.
- 03:44pm **@aubergene** - ooh. A pre-raphaelite drinking game. Take a shot every time there's a symbolic lily in the picture...
- 03:51pm Hmm. Thinking about libraries. How easy is it for people to will their books to a library when they die? Too morbid?
- 03:53pm Never thought I'd read the phrase "a double whammy in terms of sexual behaviour" in the Telegraph. <http://tinyurl.com/yadrkos>
- 03:56pm "Government recommends that all libraries allow access for users to social networking sites" Give with one hand... and on the other *#debill*
- 04:08pm Very interested in libraries. When I was, um, very young. I had a big tantrum when I'd read all the Enid Blyton books in our local one.
- 04:44pm Heading to *#debill* protest.
- 07:18pm Democratic duty done at *#debill* demo. Rushing home to see child before bedtime.
- 07:41pm **@threedaymonk** I'd say somewhere around the 100-150 mark.
- 08:30pm I'm enjoying Wonders of the Solar System, but it's documentary-by-the-numbers. "As a physicist, I'm interested..." in filming on location?
- 09:16pm Have eaten all the cheese while waiting for the pasta to cook. Am retrospectively classifying it as a starter.
- 10:03pm **@hubmum** - obviously Refried State, with a TexMex theme.

- 10:16pm **@threedaymonk** - if they're patenting them, you might find them in the us patent search.
- 10:23pm Talking of nits and so on, has anyone used the NHS webserver logs to track epidemics using search terms yet? **@bengoldacre**, might you know?
- 11:11pm Oh look - all these cultural things should be accessible to the public or their owners lose their tax breaks: <http://bit.ly/ajqlldi> *#src*
- 11:11pm Not very easy to navigate, is it? Might change that.
- 11:15pm It seems there are 34,000 privately-owned tax-exempt works registered with HMRC that the public should have access to. *#src*
- 11:17pm **@jaggeree** - oh, yes. I have the whole of the mark thomas experience on DVD. Will watch it to re-inspire myself. jaggeree
- 11:27pm Hmm. I'm not sure anyone's been in this part of the HMRC website since 1996: 'point and click your mouse on the underlined text for details'
- 11:29pm I don't even know what a 'porringer' is, but suddenly I want to go visit it... <http://tinyurl.com/yl2ve8e>
- 11:32pm Thinking about that, I wish webpages did grow cobwebs and got dusty when no-one visited them.
- 11:35pm **@aubergene** - oh. Can you remember any more? If someone's done half the work already, that'd be great. aubergene
- 11:52pm Right. To bed. More mischief tomorrow.

Thursday 25 March

- 01:30am <http://friedisms.tumblr.com/>
- 02:52pm Go go **@alicecleanor8** - second day at **@grauniad**, first by-line. <http://tinyurl.com/yjs39cj> (of sorts)
- 02:56pm Child had a lovely rampage around the toys in John Lewis. Utter joy on his face when he found a big box of footballs. *#babysteps*
- 02:57pm Oh, and saw Baroness Tonge (I think) buying a washing machine. She looks very kindly in real-life, too. *#celebrityispy*

- 03:30pm Just been told that you'll need a Visa card to book olympic tickets. This must change or it makes a mockery of an inclusive games.
- 03:32pm 1.75 million people in this country have no bank account, let alone no VISA card. This must change.
- 03:33pm More details here: <http://bit.ly/dACa6y>
- 03:38pm "LOCOG has said that you will also be able to pay using cash and cheques." Oh, that's ok then. Will you get equal priority?
- 03:43pm **@lukeredpath** - if the online booking process supports that as a payment method. Oh well, we'll be watching now.
- 03:44pm **@chrisroos** - If I had my way, they'd already be force-feeding athletes with MacDonald's Big Macs and Cadbury Wispas. Are they?
- 04:03pm Officemates trying to kill me by spiking my desk with nuts. Let's hope I survive this latest attack. Nut allergies suck.
- 04:10pm Have written to my MP about paying for London 2012 tickets using cash or cheques <http://bit.ly/9Q984l>
- 04:28pm Good to see **@tom_watson** doing some old-school campaigning. <http://bit.ly/dxOiHi> (glad to hear you're running again!)
- 04:38pm **@pauldappleby** - sure it's just lawyer stuff, but is anyone at TSO looking at the terms on the openup competition? <http://tinyurl.com/yznhff2>
- 04:40pm Oh boy - <http://babieswithlasereyes.com/> (via **@citizensheep**)
- 04:43pm Spend an awful lot of my time watching people struggle with git. It's ok, it makes everything painless.
- 04:49pm **@chrisroos** - this one? <http://www.swordswallow.com/chrisroos>
- 04:49pm **@citizensheep** - the problem is git. Not you. citizensheep
- 11:17pm Countdown FUCKED <http://bit.ly/b7fqaQ>

Friday 26 March

- 12:30pm So the big question is whether the Times is going to disappear from Google. Or will they follow the FT's halfway house solution.

- 12:35pm I have a lot of sympathy for Michael Martin's defence of the UK libel laws - he was savaged by an idiotic media. But, he's wrong on this.
- 12:48pm **@aliceeleanor8** - try to be brave.
- 12:52pm Wondering when the government's going to set up a Department for Internet Freedom - dedicated to censorship, of course.
- 12:56pm Practising my serious face. Grrrrr.
- 12:58pm **@girlonetrack** - why has there been no economic impact assessment of the impending loss of public wifi? *#zmdedbill*
- 01:07pm What's going on at **@wikileaks**? Keep watching. <http://bit.ly/crh0iF>
- 01:10pm "HYS .. is quite lacking when it comes to informing and educating, and only entertains in the sense of providing fodder for worst-of blogs."
- 01:10pm Oh. Link! <http://bit.ly/awFIzy>
- 01:53pm **@lukeredpath** - agreed. I like explaining it as a tactic to avoid returning null/nil from functions, or as a useful typed nil value.
- 01:57pm Alex Neil estate agents are spammy, spammy, spammy: <http://853blog.wordpress.com/2010/03/26/alex-neil-estate-agents-cant-stop-spamming/>
- 02:00pm "Ramifications of Mr Mandelweasel's 3 strikes and disconnect policy" Whoever wrote this should be proud. <http://bit.ly/b3sYLG>
- 02:09pm People now tweeting me to tell me that they've sent me an email. Sigh. This is why I don't tell people my phone number.
- 02:10pm Eventually this will end with people coming round to my house and shouting through the letterbox. "Did you get my email? Did you?"
- 02:37pm **@jodrell** - I didn't read their email. And now I have no intention of doing so. So, that's all good.
- 04:51pm April is starting to look busy - well, by my standards anyway.
- 05:02pm Guardian random app fills a void in my life. I used to get all my news on random fish and chip papers. Health and Safety put an end to that.
- 05:19pm **@aliceeleanor8** - no idea. You can upload an excel spreadsheet and it will turn into a google doc, I think.

- 05:26pm Have applied to be a mentor for **@rubysoc** - though I wonder if they're looking for bigger names than mine.
- 05:29pm Hello **@rewiredculture**
- 05:31pm **@pauldappleby** terrific.
- 05:33pm Changes to terms and conditions of the TSO Openup competition: <http://bit.ly/9yT9co> Listening!
- 07:50pm RT **@robertbrook**: BBC front page has video of "Mother's reaction to toddler's murder" - really? *Really?* <- BBC news is so poor sometimes
- 09:24pm Hmm. Form on website accusing me of not being human. To be honest, I've had my doubts too.
- 10:31pm One of Labour's campaign pledges will be 'build a hi-tech economy'. I guess destroying public wifi is the first stage in this. *#debill*
- 10:47pm Reading that Semantic Web is an 'emerging technology'. It's been emerging for a bloody long time! A more honest word might be 'unpopular'.
- 10:48pm Oh look, case in point: <http://bit.ly/dDmfBu>
- 11:32pm I found this terribly touching. Almost cried. What an amazing story of a man and his Fiat in Scotland. <http://bit.ly/c96eL1>
- 11:40pm You are fucking kidding me. <http://www.express.co.uk/posts/view/160905/Army-to-tackle-unruly-pupils/>

Saturday 27 March

- 12:28am Damn, forgot to book helicopter to take me to *#rsrvc* tomorrow... again. Guess I'll just have to get up at stupid o'clock and get the train.
- 12:31am Oh yes, I remember, child buried my phone in the washing basket. *#babysteps*
- 08:18am Glanding quicken and taking transit tube hubwards. *#rsrvc* hmm. Wrong culture maybe.
- 08:43am On train with Robert DeNiro look-a-like. He's wearing a badge that says 'you looking at me?'. Brilliant.
- 09:58am Going to miss Chris Mullin's speeches on election night - his constituency always raced to be called first.
- 10:07am **@aubergene** - If you're still interested in the HMRC artworks list, will start without you...

10:13am Ideas best shelved: pre-raphaelite drinking game. *#rsrc*
10:34am Have an awesome museum tag idea - anyone want it? *#rsrc*
10:37am **@david_a_black** - I was thinking a different drink every time you see a lily, arthurian motifs, a grail cup. Would be an intense evening.
11:26am Have reached that stage. Where the hell are my glasses? Ah yes, I'm wearing them.
11:33am Have not seen HTML like this since 1999. Excellent. *#rsrc*
11:35am "Portrait of the Artist, half-length, in black coat, holding a palette." *#rsrc*
12:17pm Making someone's server traffic graphs go through the roof. *#rsrc*
03:15pm Finished scraping - 160M, 34679 files. Heh heh heh. *#rsrc*
06:30pm Uhoh. Sales pitch.
09:46pm Making plasticine stop-motion films in pub. Culture, innit? *#rsrc*
09:48pm **@janetedavis** sorry to miss you. Anything in particular?

Sunday 28 March

04:39pm Legible London: <http://bit.ly/d5dYLJ>
05:06pm <META NAME="GENERATOR"
CONTENT="Mozilla/3.0Gold (WinNT; I)
[Netscape]"> (No, really!)
10:49pm Finally taking a good look at YQL. It seems pretty damn clever.

Monday 29 March

10:33am Every few months I feel the need to build my own twitter client. One day I just might.
10:39am I've been guilty of this too, but am fed up of hearing people use lack of accessibility as an excuse not to try something.
10:47am **@robertbrook** not sure... Am thinking of using your lovely minimalist client with a load of greasemonkey scripts. That might be what I want.
11:25am Shall I put advertising on my blog? I get a lot of incest-related and washine-machine traffic. Maybe not, then.

- 11:33am Very busy for next couple of weeks. So, it's going to be a little while before I can finish my *#rsr* project. <http://bit.ly/a18EZk>
- 11:56am **@cwninja** - while you're pretending to be away I'm going to pretend burgle your house. *#fakebarbados*
- 12:29pm Bargain: <http://bit.ly/acyjGG> (via **@tomafro**)
- 12:34pm I can't believe that blogger blog posts still say "1 comments" - how hard is it? 1 comment, 2 comments. Morons.
- 02:43pm It's an awful lot easier to write documents in Markdown or even html than in these odd word-processor things.
- 03:15pm Off to see this tonight: <http://bit.ly/9lc9II> - rare night out with **@elderberry**. Child left with mother-in-law.
- 03:20pm Fuck you Apple. All I want is to get my photos off my bloody phone. Damn you. Getting an android next time.
- 03:23pm Now I'm sober, I'm better placed to judge **@abscond's** morph efforts. Pretty good, methinks. <http://twitpic.com/1br6lh>
- 03:38pm **@hubmum** - sorry, I stopped reading after 'key policy officials'...
- 03:40pm **@hubmum** - nothing I can't shift around in those dates. Good for me.
- 03:48pm Someone asked me today if I was worried, not having a career. They don't know about my secret astronaut training or freelance spy missions.
- 04:11pm Methinks **@aliceeleanor8** needs to learn to peel bananas like a monkey. <http://bit.ly/9EgI1j>
- 04:24pm **@robertbrook** - but with guns, right? Proper Corps have guns. And tanks. And maybe berets.
- 04:29pm Am shocked, but in a positive way. Lots! of! poetry! criticism! going! on! at! Yahoo! answers!. <http://bit.ly/9M3Gg5>
- 04:39pm "Somewhere in SE7, someone's lost their bear... if it was you, as of 4PM

Tuesday 30 March

- 12:30am <http://bit.ly/bhpscQ> - this is a copy protection system? Really?

- 03:21pm I think the Tories are making posters with pictures of Brown on in the hope they'll be photoshopped. What morons.
- 04:03pm Getting junk mail again. Fucking Littlewoods. Now where did you scum people get my home address?
- 04:58pm **@jodrell** am registered. Here's the thing: anyone who sends me stuff must have tricked me into signing up. Arseholes. How do I find out who?
- 06:23pm Remembering the old days, when having a laptop open in a pub usually meant that you were a fellow geek.
- 06:37pm Is it wise to let toddler plumb in new cooker? <http://yfrog.com/jw386ij>

Wednesday 31 March

- 12:54am This shit sickens me: <http://bit.ly/axyroc>
- 01:05am Worst kind of anecdote journalism: <http://bit.ly/cQxvkl>
- 01:07am By that I mean, someone who sounds very plausible, but refuses to engage with key things like minimum wage, house price bubbles, etc.
- 01:16am Not sure it's worth reading comments that start "I'm not advocating a return to feudalism, but..."
- 01:17am I might watch 2012. I shouldn't, should I?
- 12:57pm The Milgram experiment seems to be reliably repeatable - at least on TV. <http://bit.ly/9hnboJ> Hmm. Must get me a white coat.
- 01:02pm "To crash IE6 call \$.crash();" <http://bit.ly/dnCYSb> Genius. (via **@chrisroos**)
- 01:21pm "The gloom and doom about the state of children and families in Britain is not justified by the data." <http://bit.ly/dtGI16>
- 01:28pm Trying to re-find reference to research that showed that firms that employ between 12 and 500 people are the most societally beneficial.
- 01:29pm **@threedaymonk** - says the maven, nevermore.
- 01:41pm " the 'people of love' (a grim-faced, angry crowd)" <http://bit.ly/cVfv2g> It's election time in Italy again, reports **@twrc**
- 02:30pm **@1jh** welcome to the dark side.

- 02:34pm **@1jh** - anyway, all the cool kids are using sinatra.rb anyway.
- 02:43pm **@1jh** <http://bit.ly/bdR4> the lower level, but great for building little web services, probably not whole apps though.
- 03:20pm Have listened to too many of **@monkchips'** phone calls. Just caught myself saying 'abso-fucking-lutely' on a client call. Well, she laughed.
- 03:34pm **@Marthalanefox** um, that link sends me to a domain-squatting page with adverts for adult services. Not what you meant?
- 03:54pm Passive aggressive rebuttals: <http://bit.ly/bFhHxA>
- 09:52pm The web gets more tawdry every day. Maybe we should leave it to the record companies, entrepreneurs and Murdochs and all go somewhere else.
- 09:54pm If you're writing dot-com poetry, remember that entrepreneur almost rhymes with manure.
- 10:07pm "It's cold outside/ And the paint's peeling off of my walls"
Oh yes.
- 10:35pm Fascinating. <http://bit.ly/bklVvr> "EDS, a company whose track record of delivering government IT projects has not been exemplary "
- 10:43pm Welcome to the world. <http://bit.ly/d9wNLR> We own your stuff. Love Sony.
- 11:01pm Enjoying listening to Darren Hayman's Pram Town. All about the failure of the Essex post-war new-town dream.
- 11:32pm Constantly disappointed that Spotify doesn't have the albums I want to listen to on it. I don't think I'll be renewing my subscription.
- 11:35pm **@threedaymonk** - it's utterly moronic. The albums are all there on the INTERNET for free, if you're that way inclined...
- 11:58pm **@threedaymonk** - you have just killed Tron.

April

Thursday 01 April

- 12:04am Part of me wishes that everything electronic still looked like this inside: <http://bit.ly/cY1MOT>
- 12:47am Guardian reveals new Labour poster campaigns: <http://bit.ly/9AP72x>
- 01:04pm Starting to get quite excited about YQL. Who'd have thought. <http://bit.ly/9OmIcM>
- 02:14pm **@brunns** have you tried "KILL THE CLIENT WITH THE SILVER AXE AND THEN GO NORTH"?
- 02:16pm Number #176 in my 'reasons to love the internet' list: <http://bit.ly/bk30fw>
- 02:27pm Hey YQL, it was all going so well. You were my new best friend and then the console just stopped working. It's like pipes all over again.
- 02:38pm A-Z of awesomeness: <http://bit.ly/8XbBpJ>
- 03:13pm I know it's an april fools joke, but I wish it wasn't. I'd buy an iPad for this: <http://bit.ly/b7R26q>
- 06:35pm **@pjdonnelly** sure. The list of data tables didn't appear - instead showing an error - don't remember exactly, same error shown in main pane.
- 07:50pm **@pjdonnelly** It's working again now. Stopped working for ~15 minutes. Am using Safari. Was/am signed in. Worked again afterwards.
- 09:26pm Have spent a day looking at YQL now - pretty sure that if a start-up had made this, it would be winning awards left, right and centre.
- 10:30pm One day I complain about the gaps on Spotify, the next I find: <http://bit.ly/cz6RsW> Their "In the Army Now" cover is magic.
- 10:31pm Used to work with someone who would put Laibach on when everyone was out to lunch.
- 11:10pm "Yeah, at school, we stopped doing that p2p thing. We all log into the same gmail account and share our music there, it's faster." Ok...
- 11:14pm **@nevali** terrorists are sharing music now? Where will this end !?!

Friday 02 April

- 01:08am Excellent, spot-on, funny Brian Cox parody: <http://bit.ly/cbPS5k>
- 01:17am <http://bit.ly/aVMEQ8>
- 03:52pm Stranger I'm sharing table with at Starbucks just pulled it closer so they could reach coffee. Now mine's out-of-reach. Escalating conflict.
- 04:03pm **@nevali** - she's pulled it back towards her. It seems I'm engaged in a dangerous game of brinkmanship here.
- 04:10pm Is genetic engineering something one can do as a hobby yet?
- 04:13pm So wrong, but nice idea: <http://bit.ly/ccbQCf>
- 04:17pm Was thinking of typesetting all my tweets in a book, but, of course, someone's done it already: <http://bit.ly/bkAkww> Why? No reason.
- 04:44pm Here we go: <http://bit.ly/bjsZTM> (now, wait until we get to the Olympics).
- 04:47pm I wish I could run something like YQL locally. Is there an open-source clone yet?
- 04:49pm **@alicecleanor8** ooh, exciting. Where are you going?
- 09:49pm Just been invited to a local meeting to discuss 'acceptable ways of voluntarily stabilizing and reducing population'. Hmm...
- 09:51pm Oh, I see it's a religious thing. Figures.
- 09:54pm This is really deep stuff: "Theoretically, if everyone consumed only what was needed, there will be sufficient resources for others."
- 09:56pm Ok, deciding not to go to local meeting lead by religious nutter pretending to be intellectual.
- 10:03pm I try to support the transition town stuff but here everyone just wants to moan at the council about their planning permission rejections...
- 10:03pm One minute we're talking about solar panels, the next about someone's monstrous house extension that got turned down.
- 10:04pm **@marxculture** - I've had the same idea, but with Hungry Hippos. I only need four or five.

- 10:43pm If any of my friends tries to phone me to conduct 'peer-to-peer persuasion' (for any party), they can fuck right off. <http://bit.ly/9wyM5i>
- 10:50pm I like to think that in the future, the child will go to hackdays where devs have 24 hours to genetically engineer a new, useful species.
- 11:39pm "The growth of content on the internet has had nothing to do with openness." Right... If only we could send these idiots back to 1995 AOL.
- 11:45pm Tempted to get an HTC Desire - not sure it's that much of a step up from the iPhone 3G I have, but I've had enough of closed platforms.

Saturday 03 April

- 02:10am I've started creating YQL open data table definitions for the NHS Choices API. <http://bit.ly/aK9S7s>
- 07:43pm Looking forward to the East London Line opening. By the end of May, they say, 4 trains an hour from New Cross to Shoreditch.
- 09:30pm **@threedaymonk** There's something magical about a world in which stoned teenagers have better broadcasting systems than the BBC.
- 09:32pm It amazes me that 'Tories sound like bigots when the cameras are off' is still a story. Don't we all know this by now? <http://bit.ly/b7y1r9>
- 10:13pm **@tom_watson** Also, none of that £300m goes to artists, but some of it is money that would have been spent on them. Madness.
- 10:20pm **@delineator** - who else is on the board of Garlik? Not Professor Nigel Shadbolt. Surely not?