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# Consortium Standards Bulletin

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## THE REST OF THE NEWS

Every day, we scan the web for all of the news and press releases that relate to standards, and aggregate that content at the [News Section](#) of ConsortiumInfo.org. For up to date information, bookmark our News page, or take advantage of our RSS feed: [www.consortiuminfo.org/news/rss](http://www.consortiuminfo.org/news/rss). Updates are usually posted on Mondays and Wednesdays. The following is a selection of the many stories from the past month that you can find digested at ConsortiumInfo.org.



### Story Updates

**Good News/Bad News:** In our May issue of the **CSB**, we focused on the role of standards in erecting trade barriers generally, and on the face-off between China and the United States over the Wi-Fi standard (see **Breaking Down Trade Barriers: Avoiding the China Syndrome** <[www.consortiuminfo.org/bulletins/may04.php#trends](http://www.consortiuminfo.org/bulletins/may04.php#trends)>). The following two items demonstrate the one halting nature of the situation. The first article below appears on the China Economic Net, and takes a different view of China's motivations for creating its own domestic standards, rather than adopting international ones. In China's view, domestic manufacturers are "being forced to pay foreign patent magnates billions of US dollars of patent fees". Ideally, the solution would be to create standards that do not generate royalty obligations at all, but this has not been the case in the video market space since Betamax and VHS duked it out. While progress has been made recently in the Wi-Fi space, the DVD arena remains an open contest. On a happier note, the second item reports that China and the United States have settled a complaint brought by the U.S. against China before the World Trade Organization, following more high-level meetings during this fast-waning U.S. presidential election year.

#### China's EVD Standard becomes the industrial one By: Zhong Jing

**China Economic Net, July 22, 2004** -- China's traditional DVD player industry with overwhelmingly cruel competition is now approaching its end. As the so-called substitute for DVD players, high definition disc players, such as EVD, HVD, HDV and the like, are launched successively. However, without exception, their appearance in the market incurs various questions from both inside and outside the industry circle. Meanwhile, market feedback further manifests obviously that the substitute for the traditional DVD player does not appear in fact. ...[Full Story](#)



#### U.S., China settle semiconductor trade row

**FXStreet.com, Washington, D.C., July 8, 2004** -- The United States and China have agreed to settle their long-standing row over China's tax policy on semiconductors, just four months after the Bush administration brought its complaint on the matter to the World Trade Organization, U.S. Trade Representative Robert Zoellick said Thursday. The agreement, worked out bilaterally between officials in Washington and Beijing, cut short a trade dispute that could have lingered for another few years if it had been left to be resolved through the time consuming process of the WTO. China agreed to stop giving preferential tax treatment to new Chinese chipmakers and phase out by next April the rebates for those companies already receiving the tax break, which the U.S. said unfairly discriminates against non-Chinese producers. ...[Full Story](#)



**Many phish bite if you got good bait:** In our June issue, we focused on the various public and private initiatives being launched to curtail the multiple types of abuse being unleashed over the Internet (see: **Standards and Security** [http://gcn.com/vol1\\_no1/daily-updates/26674-1.html](http://gcn.com/vol1_no1/daily-updates/26674-1.html)). The following article reports on efforts by a frustrated FTC to urge fast action on one particular front: authentication. The good news is that at least three different efforts are underway to satisfy that need. The bad news is that three different specifications might result, and only one is the effort of a standards body: the IETF (the other two are sponsored by Microsoft and Yahoo).

#### **FTC wants to encourage e-mail authentication standards**

**By: William Jackson**

**GCN.com, July 21, 2004** -- The Federal Trade Commission is responsible for policing the Internet for online fraud such as phishing, but keeping up with the onslaught of new schemes is a major challenge. But that is hardly a drop in the bucket. According to a study by the Anti-Phishing Working Group, 1,125 new phishing schemes were identified in April, a 180 percent increase over the month before. "We've had three phishing cases," Sana Coleman, counsel to FTC's Bureau of Consumer Protection, said during a panel discussion about phishing on Capitol Hill today. "All of the cases were settled." Settlements included forfeiture of \$125,000 in illegal profits. ...[Full Story](#)



**Another "prebaked" standard:** In the March 2004 issue of the **CSB** (see **Maintaining Process Quality** [www.consortiuminfo.org/bulletins/mar04.php](http://www.consortiuminfo.org/bulletins/mar04.php)), we reported on the increasing tendency of one company, or a group of companies, to create a specification and then offer it to a consortium for approval and maintenance, rather than proposing that a new working group be chartered to create such a standard. While such a practice can save valuable time to market when a company offers existing work for the benefit of all, it can also serve to limit the input of others, and convey a decided advantage to the company(ies) that offer the technology. This puts a burden on the standards body to which the offer is made, to ensure that no strings are attached, and that the offered technology is as valuable and appropriate as could have been created through the normal consensus process. While this dynamic has been most prevalent in the area of Web Services in the last year, the following article reports on a similar offer in another technical context.

#### **IBM pursues software installation standard**

**By: Paul Krill**

**ComputerWorld, July 19, 2004** -- IBM is unveiling technology intended to reduce complexity in software installation and packaging and has submitted it to the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C) for consideration as an industry standard. Dubbed Solution Installation for Autonomic Computing, the technology enables software developers and software vendors to improve the installation and support experience and simplify the software packaging process, according to IBM. Developers would be able to build packaged software for installation on a variety of platforms. "One of the observations is that half of the problems that are surfacing in today's IT environments are stemming from configuration issues," director of autonomic computing at IBM, David Bartlett, said. ...[Full Story](#)



**Spam abatement and optimism (?):** When was the last time that you saw these seemingly oxymoronic words in the same phrase? In all likelihood, this is the first. The cause for the optimism is the agreement by an international group of standard setting organizations that only the assemblage of a world-wide alignment of governments, standard setting organizations, consumer groups, and industry players can eradicate the scourge of spam. Given that spammers can hide nearly invisibly anywhere in the world, the challenge of eradicating spam is not unlike the reality that which confronts world health

leaders when they seek to eliminate an infectious disease: until the last enclave of infection is inoculated, ongoing outbreaks are inevitable. The conclusion appropriately reached at the meeting reported on in the following press release is that a global Memorandum of Understanding must be entered into by world governments, supported by the cooperation and efforts of standard setting bodies like the International Telecommunications Union (ITU), the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the International Consumer Protection and Enforcement Network (ICPEN), and the Internet Society, in order to achieve peace from spammers in our time. Whether or not the degree of optimism espoused at the meeting (those in attendance foresaw a solution to the spam problem within two years) is warranted, one must applaud the realism of the first steps proposed for solving what was rightly recognized as "this inherently global problem."

### Wave of optimism as ITU WSIS meeting on countering spam closes

**ITU Press Release, Geneva, July 9, 2004** -- Participants at the ITU WSIS thematic meeting on countering spam which concluded its work today agreed on a series of actions needed to curb spam. The watershed meeting was designed to launch a global effort that can ultimately lead to the eradication of spam. Based on a fruitful exchange of views and experiences, the meeting gave an opportunity to identify where priority action was needed. "Spam has grown into a major plague affecting the digital world," said Dr Robert Horton, Acting Chair of the Australian Communications Authority and chairman of the meeting. "We are facing a global epidemic which can only be combated through a global and concerted action," he said. "What is at stake is no less than the protection and preservation of the Internet as we know it. I am convinced that we can curb spam within the next two years if we act on a number of fronts simultaneously and make sure that there are no havens for spammers anywhere in the world", Horton said. Despite the enactment of anti-spam legislation in about thirty countries and the introduction of technical solutions by Internet service providers and end-users, there has been so far no significant impact on the volume of spam with spammers sending hundreds of millions of messages per day. ...[Full Story](#)



**Going it alone (together):** In our March 2004 issue of the **CSB**, we noted the increasing trend by individual companies, or groups of companies, to create specifications on their own that they then offer to the industry as purportedly "open standards". In some cases, the specification is offered to an existing, respected standards organization for ongoing maintenance, while in others, the developers license directly to interested vendors under a public, but non-enforceable, assurance that they will continue to license the technology to all interested parties. The reasons given for taking such an action include a desire for a faster result, the lack of an interested standards group, or the desire to have a greater degree of influence over the outcome than the same companies could expect were the effort to be launched from the beginning within a standards body. The following press release from Nokia, together with a related article for the *EE Times*, describe such an effort by two companies (Nokia and STMicroelectronics) to "leapfrog" (in the words of *EE Times*) a similar effort already in progress by a consortium of which the same companies comprised two of the four founders. The reason publicly offered by Nokia and STM in this was that the existing consortium was moving too slowly to set a functional and optical specification for the type of modular cameras that handset vendors would like to purchase in volume on the open market for installation into their camera phones. Nokia and STM have also set up a website, under the name "SMIA Forum" where comments can be offered regarding future development.

### Nokia, ST offer their own camera phone spec

By: Junko Yoshida

**EE Times UK, Paris, France, July 1, 2004** -- Leapfrogging a stalled industry standards effort, Nokia and STMicroelectronics on Thursday (July 1) introduced a Standard Mobile Imaging Architecture (SMIA) 1.0 spec that defines the mechanical design, high speed serial interface, performance characterizations and functions of camera modules used in mobile handsets. Janne Haavisto, a director with Nokia Technology Platforms, called SMIA the first industry attempt to set design parameters for camera modules. The announcement also appears to be a partial end-run around the Mobile Industry Processor Interface (MIPI) group, an industry forum seeking to standardize electrical interfaces for mobile handsets. ...[Full Story](#)



## Nokia and STMicroelectronics Introduce New Camera-Module Standard For Mobile Devices

**Yahoo.com, Helsinki, Finland, July 1, 2004** -- Nokia and STMicroelectronics today announced that they are releasing a comprehensive specification for camera modules, aimed at standardizing this increasingly important component in mobile devices. The specification, dubbed Standard Mobile Imaging Architecture, or SMIA, will cover all aspects of the modules, including their electrical, mechanical, and functional interfaces, and also address other key areas such as characterization, optical performance, and reliability. The SMIA specification is offered for free to the mobile imaging industry and is available at <http://www.smia-forum.org>. .. [Full Story](#)



## New Standards

***It may be BioIT, but its still IT:** While the medical arena has not been as active as some other areas of IT standard setting, interesting activity does continue. The following article highlights a new standard developed by the Clinical Data Interchange Standards Consortium (CDISC), which will permit the standardized submission of clinical trials data supporting FDA approval of new drugs. As a result, errors will be reduced, costs will be lowered – and new drugs may more speedily and assuredly be brought to the marketplace. For lists of other consortia active in the BioIT space and the medical and healthy areas, see [www.consortiuminfo.org/links/bioit/](http://www.consortiuminfo.org/links/bioit/) and [www.consortiuminfo.org/links/health/](http://www.consortiuminfo.org/links/health/) respectively.*

## FDA Announces Standard Format That Drug Sponsors Can Use to Submit Human Drug Clinical Trial Data

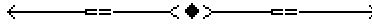
**Medical News Today, July 22, 2004** -- The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) today announced a standard format, called the Study Data Tabulation Model (SDTM) developed by the Clinical Data Interchange Standards Consortium (CDISC), that sponsors of human drug clinical trials can use to submit data to the agency. It is expected that this step will lead to greater efficiencies in clinical research and FDA reviews of New Drug Applications (NDAs). The announcement was made at the Secretarial Summit on Health Information in Washington, D.C. ...[Full Story](#)



***Standards and the home:** With the convergence of information technology and communications technology, and the increasing penetration of networked and wireless-enabled products into the home, more and more standards bodies are setting standards targeted at consumer products. From cell phones, to Wi-Fi networks, to digital cameras to home theaters, off-the-shelf consumer products are dependent on an ever-growing swarm of standards. Every month brings a fresh batch of announcements that are as important as increasing security to Wi-Fi for home offices and family financial transactions over the Web, and as mundane as reducing the clutter of remotes for all those new electronic toys. The following items focus on two standards that will enable consumers to enjoy increasingly rich ways to experience an even wider variety of the same old video drive.*

## Samsung HD AV Standard Adopted By CEA

**Design Technica.com, July 13, 2004** -- The new standard signals the ability for Samsung and the digital audio/video industry to deliver pure high definition audio/visual entertainment for the home network. In the next phase, an open consortium of consumer electronics manufacturers and service providers will be assembled with the aim of establishing a working group focused on advancing the standard. All interested parties will be welcomed. Samsung's home network initiative developed for CEA-2027 is known as eXpandable Home Theater (XHT). ...[Full Story](#)



## SCTE Standard on CableLabs(r) OCAP™ Specification Achieves ANSI Approval

**CableLabs Press Release, Exton, PA, July 1, 2004** -- The Society of Cable Telecommunications Engineers (SCTE) announces that SCTE 90-1 2004 has achieved American National Standards Institute (ANSI) approval yesterday. SCTE 90-1 was based on CableLabs' submission of the OpenCable™ Application Platform (OCAPT™) specification. OCAP defines a set of common application interfaces, data formats, and protocols for interactive cable devices. As such, OCAP allows cable operators, content providers, and consumer electronics manufacturers to write applications one time that will run on all OCAP compliant devices. OCAP is a key element of two-way interactive cable devices and is a requirement for OpenCable™ devices. The major cable operators have announced that they will deploy OCAP, and support OCAP applications, in their networks. ...[Full Story](#)



## New Initiatives

**What last mile?** For many years, the metaphorical "last mile" challenge has slowed the roll out of broadband services to the consumers of America. While damatic overinvestment in fiber optic cable during the heyday of the Internet bubble resulted in a vast oversupply of big fat "pipes" over long distances, telephone companies were slow to make the investment in the additional localized infrastructure that DSL demands to actually reach the end user, and broadband Cable has only gradually been offered to the home desktop as well. Now, the IEEE proposes to not only solve the "last mile" problem in a way that would theoretically enable broadband access to anyone with a power company willing to offer the service, but eliminate home wiring issues as well. Of course, once the service is widely deployed, it will not only bring broadband access to those who currently have no alternative to dial-up service, but will impose new price competition to the benefit of those that do as well.

## IEEE Starts Standard to Support Broadband Communications over Local Power Lines

**Business Wire, Piscataway, N.J., July 20, 2004** -- The ability to send high-speed digital data over the power lines between substations and homes and offices is attracting increasing attention because it can make every wall outlet a portal to the Internet. In seeking to help realize this potential, the IEEE has begun to develop IEEE P1675(TM), "Standard for Broadband over Power Line Hardware." When finished, IEEE P1675 will give electric utilities a comprehensive standard for installing the required hardware on distribution lines, both underground and overhead, which provide the infrastructure for broadband-over-power-line (BPL) systems. It also will include installation requirements for the protection of those who work on BPL equipment and to ensure such systems do not place the public at risk. The standard is targeted for completion in mid 2006. ...[Full Story](#)

For a related press release by the HomePlug Alliance, see:

[http://home.businesswire.com/portal/site/google/index.jsp?ndmViewId=news\\_view&newsId=20040719005340&newsLang=en](http://home.businesswire.com/portal/site/google/index.jsp?ndmViewId=news_view&newsId=20040719005340&newsLang=en)



**Standards: Too many or too few?** One common complaint about standards is that there are too many of them. All too often, it seems that it's easier to start a new effort than work with an old one. The reasons can vary from the advantage that some players may reap from starting a new racehorse on the track if your first bet isn't paying off, to simple problems of gaining consensus over new directions. The following press release reports on one situation where those involved worked together to reconcile and merge, rather than perpetuate, two related chip design standards into a new, more versatile and useful business tool.



## IEEE Takes Steps To Unify Work On Verilog HDL Standard With A Single Working Group

**Business Wire, Piscataway, N.J. July 13, 2004** -- The IEEE has formed a working group within its IEEE Standards Association (IEEE-SA) Corporate Initiative that intends to unify the development of two Verilog(R) standards efforts: an update of the IEEE P1364(TM), "Standard for Verilog Hardware Description Language," and the creation of IEEE P1800(TM), "Standard for SystemVerilog Unified Hardware Design, Specification and Verification Language." By bringing the two projects together in a single industry body, the IEEE will work towards a single Verilog language specification for use by the electronic design automation (EDA), semiconductor and system design communities. The new working group is sponsored by the Design Automation Standards Committee (DASC) within the IEEE Computer Society and the IEEE-SA Corporate Advisory Group. ...[Full Story](#)



**The Lingua Franca of the Web:** *Perhaps the most versatile of current standards is the eXtensible Markup Language, or XML, maintained by the World Wide Web Association, and utilized by scores of different, independent standards efforts. The ability to add onto this base tool has led to a rainbow of efforts within single organizations, such as OASIS, as well under the aegis of a broad range of smaller organizations that target everything from financial reporting to human resources data management. The following press release reports on one such effort as it takes another step towards even finer XML standards granularity (in this case, addressing regional needs within its already-discrete chosen domain).*

## HR-XML Europe to Focus on Integration across National Initiatives and on Driving Standards Adoption in Europe

**Sourcewire.com, Brussels, July 12, 2004** -- The HR-XML Consortium today announced the formation of a European chapter chartered with driving the development and adoption of HR-XML standards by employers, HR services companies, software developers and government agencies across Europe. The HR-XML Consortium is dedicated to the development and promotion of a standard suite of XML specifications to enable e-business and the automation of human resources-related data exchanges. HR-XML Consortium Europe is a locally based organization chartered with ensuring that standards fully meet the needs of organizations in Europe and promoting them across all areas of the HR industry. ...[Full Story](#)



**We've got to talk:** *Sometimes the problem isn't that there are too many standards or too few, but that the standards that do serve well for specific purposes are not universal enough in their applicability, or that they cannot interoperate with similar standardized transactions in a different environment. The effort described in the following press release from the Object Management Group (OMG) is being launched to address this problem in the area of electronic payments, where there are a variety of existing standards serving areas as diverse as smartcards and back-office transactions. If successful, some of these disparate standards will become able to "talk" to each other.*

## OMG's Electronic Payments Interoperability Working Group Issues Request for Information

**OMG Press Release, Needham, MA, July 6, 2004** -- The Object Management Group(tm) (OMG(tm)) today announced that its Electronic Payments Interoperability Working Group (EPI-WG) has issued a Request for Information (RFI) to the finance industry and other users and processors of electronic payments. Seeking information about the payment methods they use today and the architecture and standards they would like to see in the future, the RFI is the EPI-WG's first step in standardizing a worldwide electronic payments framework that will bridge interoperability gaps that separate multiple payment models, protocols, and data and message formats. Taking advantage of OMG's Model Driven Architecture(r) (MDA(r)), EPI-WG members will use the information they receive to shape a standard electronic payments framework that lets institutions everywhere interoperate without replacing existing systems. Any company or organization, OMG member or not, can respond to the RFI. Each epayment constituency - payments processor, transfer agent, or user - has its own set of priorities. The EPI-WG

hopes to hear from members of each, allowing it to scope and prioritize the set of standards that will comprise the interoperable payments framework. If your company processes or uses electronic payments, or has an interest in this area, the group would like to hear from you. ...[Full Story](#)



**Soon, it will even make excuses for you:** *A host of efforts are continuing to make your wireless phone the most diverse device ever devised. Some efforts, like those reported in the first article below, relate to behind-the-scenes efforts of which most users will be unaware, but which will allow your cell phone to interoperate as easily and effectively with the home office server as your laptop. The second article focuses on a standard that will be welcomed with open arms by a certain type of traveler: the ability to play blackjack on their phone, even after the plane has taken off. Both efforts are indicative of the fact that the industry has concluded that the tiny keypad and screen of a cell phone have an intrinsic commercial beauty capable of launching a thousand apps. And with expected annual sales in the hundreds of millions of handsets annually, everyone wants a piece of the action.*

### **Nokia sees progress next year for mobile apps**

**By: James Niccolai**

**CPILive.net, July 5, 2004** -- Nokia expects work to be wrapped up early next year on a new Java standard that should make it easier to manage business and consumer applications on mobile phones and other wireless devices, Nokia's chief technology officer said. The standard, which is being developed by Nokia, Motorola and others, includes new management capabilities that should make it easier to deliver applications and software updates to mobile phones, troubleshoot problems remotely, and set access policies for corporate users, said Pertti Korhonen, Nokia's CTO, in a speech at JavaOne. ...[Full Story](#)



### **CEA looks to standard to allow phone use on airplanes**

**By: Emily Motsay**

**RCR Wireless News, July 2, 2004** -- Use of wireless devices may soon be allowed during commercial airline flights if the Consumer Electronics Association's recently announced standardization project goes as planned. The group this week launched a project to create a new industry standard to help manage the use of wireless services onboard aircraft. CEA said it has established a working group that includes more than 35 representatives of wireless device and component manufacturers, airlines, pilots and flight attendants to develop a "recommended practice" to provide a standard way of showing that a wireless device's transmitter has been disabled, which would allow for the use of certain features of wireless devices. ...[Full Story](#)



## **Standards and Your Business**

**Global outsourcing and process standards:** *The ISO 9000 series of quality control standards has been around for some time now, and these standards have become widely adopted (especially in Europe). But are they able to perform the same function for which they were developed with the advent of widely distributed, globally outsourced development projects? Some of the largest IT companies in the world think that there's a need to upgrade them, and have asked ISO to fast-track the process, as reported in an article in the business press of a country with a reason to take an active interest in the outcome: India.*

## ISO standard for IT services soon

By: Parvathy Ullatil

**Mumbai, Business Standard, July 8, 2004** -- An ISO standard for IT service management, along the lines of BS 15000, is expected to be in place by 2005-06....The information technology service management forum (ITSMF), a UK-based non-profit organization with over 1000 member companies including Hewlett Packard, Microsoft and IBM, approached the International Organization of Standardization with a proposal to fast track the ISO certification for IT service management.... The standardisation will have a special relevance for India which has emerged as a global offshoring hotspot. "With the coming of the 24-hour, follow the sun global delivery model, it is necessary that people are equipped to speak the same language and understand the same value propositions," said Peter van der Fluit, vice president, software global business unit, Hewlett Packard. The country which is riding the IT wave even in the domestic industry with computerisation of its banking systems, e-governance etc is now combating qualitative problems like failed projects, overshooting budgets or running out on time....[Full Story](#)



**What price (a lack of) standards?** *The larger and more complex a system grows, the more difficult it becomes to know what is going on. When knowledge about the state, operations and attributes of the system degrades, so does efficiency. Meanwhile, costs go up. Supply chains are among the most complex of business systems, and the following report notes that the absence of certain types of standards for supply chain management leads to dramatically higher costs.*

## Lack of Supply Chain Standards Costing Billions of Dollars

**NIST Tech Beat, July 2, 2004** -- Inadequacies in managing inventory, scheduling and accounting information cost the automotive and electronics industries a combined total of almost \$9 billion annually, according to a newly released study commissioned by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST). Almost all of these costs could be eliminated with optimally integrated systems for exchanging information throughout supply chains, the study concludes....An underlying problem, according to the study, is the lack of universally accepted and implemented standards for the format and content of messages that flow between supply chain partners. This reduces opportunities for cost savings and leads to duplication of effort, maintenance of redundant systems, and investment in inefficient processes such as manual entry of data when machine sources are available....[Full Story](#)



## Open Source

**China, Linux and future trade deficits:** *China's government is not alone in becoming interested in Linux as an operating system. But while countries like Germany are focusing primarily on purchasing decisions, China is also examining Linux as a leveler of national trade advantages, and a lever to exploit in order to gain easier access to global markets for its indigenous software products. The China Electronics Standardization Institute (CESI) and Linux National Standard Workgroup are already working hard to foster development of Linux standards in China, by creating national standards to adapt Linux to local character set and encoding needs. As the following article notes, China is also reaching out to international open source groups in order to increase its competitive skills in this rapidly growing global marketplace.*

## China opens up

By: Tony T. Arambulo

**CNETChina News & Technology, July 7, 2004** -- If concerted efforts being exerted by the Chinese government and other independent local Linux groups are indications to go by, the country might transform into one of the largest markets for open source computing. Earlier this year, the Open Source Development Labs (OSDL), a global consortium working towards increased adoption of Linux worldwide,



accepted membership of Beijing Software Testing Center (BSTC), China's largest software testing organization. Founded two years ago by the Beijing Government Science and Technology Commission and Beijing Products Quality and Inspection Institute, BSTC plans to focus on Linux testing and development of internationalization features for Linux.... Prior to signing in BSTC, OSDL also accepted early this year membership of another Chinese software organization -- the Beijing Co-create Open Source Software Company -- which is one of China's leading open source software development firms. Founded by 10 other Chinese software vendors, the company plans to focus on Linux kernel development and the promotion of the Linux desktop in the country....[Full Story](#)



**Linux, OSDL and evolution:** *One of the interesting things about observing the spread of Linux is watching what the open source community decides to do differently, as well as the same, as the traditional accredited standard setting organizations and/or consortium communities. While SourceForge and other organic open source environments continue to flourish, more structured, traditional organizations such as Eclipse are also producing useful work product for the business community. One of the most interesting hybrids is the high-budget, industry supported Open Source Development Labs (OSDL). Its latest evolutionary step is to launch an affiliate program intended to enlist the involvement of the academic community.*

### **OSDL Creates New College and University Affiliate Program**

**PR Newswire, Beaverton, OR, June 30, 2004** -- The Open Source Development Labs (OSDL), a global consortium of leading technology companies dedicated to accelerating the adoption of Linux, today announced a new Lab membership initiative dedicated to supporting qualifying institutions of higher education. The new program is designed to attract affiliates among colleges and universities interested in Linux research and deployment. The first institutions joining OSDL under the new program are Marist College, Oregon State University, Stanford University, Tokyo University of Technology and Waseda University in Japan. ...[Full Story](#)



### **Miscellaneous**

**It's about time:** *For many years the United States has often been slow to embrace new wireless telephone technologies, trailing years behind regions like Europe. Well, its happening again. The following press release reports on the first roll out of 3GSM in the United States. 3GSM, also known as UMTS, is the 3G-upgrade for GSM developed jointly by standards bodies from the United States, Japan, Korea, China and Europe. It delivers substantially enhanced capacity for voice and data traffic, data transmission speeds and quality management, and has already been deployed in Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Belgium...(you get the idea).*

### **America Embraces 3GSM**

**GSM Association Press Release, July 20, 2004** -- 3GSM makes its debut in the United States today as AT&T Wireless announces the successful rollout of its initial third generation broadband mobile communications offering in Seattle, Phoenix, Detroit and San Francisco. The new US service, launched ahead of schedule, brings the number of live 3GSM networks to more than 50 worldwide. AT&T Wireless' 3GSM customers will enjoy a rich multimedia mobile experience, with access to high-speed download of content and advanced features such as streaming audio, streaming video, picture messaging, and video messaging... 3GSM fulfils the vision of the world phone by combining the high-speed data and multimedia capabilities of 3GSM with the established ...international roaming of GSM. Japan and Korea are both deploying 3GSM to connect with the global GSM community in order to deliver roaming services to their own mobile customers and visitors to their countries from overseas. ...[Full Story](#)



## Standards and Society

**Your tax dollars at work:** *What can we say about this one, other than that we thought you'd want to know about it?*

### NIST Standard Adopted for Across-the-Road Radar

**NIST Tech Beat, July 15, 2004** -- Researchers at the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) have developed a new performance standard for "across-the-road" radar speed-measuring device systems to help law enforcement agencies to purchase and use with confidence this relatively new method for catching speeders. Unlike conventional "down-the-road" radar speed-measuring devices, across-the-road radar systems do not require an operator and can be programmed to detect and record vehicles traveling above a predetermined speed. In addition, these devices can be set to look selectively for cars, motorcycles or trucks. The newer systems are also less likely to be detected by speeders because the radar beam used is pointed across, rather than along the road. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) has adopted the new across-the-road radar standard along with two other updated NIST standards for down the road radar and for lidar, a speed enforcement technology that uses laser pulses rather than radio waves. ...[Full Story](#)



### Standards are Serious (aren't they?)

With this issue, we introduce a new topical heading, underlining the fact that standards need not be so serious that they can't still make us smile, or at least shake our heads. Herewith, the first two offerings.

**And don't forget gazundering:** *Alright, this isn't an IT standard. But how can you resist reporting on a new Working Group just formed by the Irish Government to fight the invidious effects of "gazumping" (abandoning an accepted offer to buy your house when a better one comes along) and "gazumping" (threatening to walk after agreeing to buy a house unless the seller accepts a lower offer, after the seller is already on the hook to buy another house). Without enforceable standards, either practice can -- and in the United Kingdom currently does -- exist.*

### New Working Group Will Probe Gazumping

**Business World, July 6, 2004** -- Rising house prices have lifted percentage fees earned by estate agents to unacceptable levels, according to a member of a new working group on the sector set up by the government. Agents are earning "huge" fees out of proportion with the amount of work done for their clients, the Director of Consumer Affairs Carmel Foley has claimed. Fees should be based on an estimate of the amount of work needed or by the hour, or type of transaction," she says. "If a house is sold for 10 m euro as opposed to 1 m euro," she tells the Irish Times this morning, " why should they get 10 times the amount of money? ...[Full Story](#)



**What hit me?** *In extraterrestrial news this month, we note that standards do indeed cover a broad topical range. Some cover matters as complex as calculating orbital trajectories and as elemental as being careful about what to do with your garbage -- sometimes all in the same standard.*

### New FCC Orbital Debris Ruling: ISO TC20/SC14 to Develop Standards for Orbital Debris Mitigation

**U.S. Newswire, Reston, VA, July 1, 2004** -- On 21 June, the U.S. Federal Communications Commission (FCC) published a ruling that called for every U.S.-licensed satellite launched after 18 March 2002 to be placed into a disposal orbit at the end of its useful life. The new ruling is based on guidelines developed by the Inter-Agency Space Debris Coordinating Committee (IADC), a group of 11 international space agencies whose goal is to minimize the growth of the space debris population. The American Institute of

Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA) currently manages an international committee that is developing technical standards to help satellite operators implement the IADC guidelines and comply with the new FCC rule. Worldwide members of Technical Committee 20/Subcommittee 14 (TC20/SC14) of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) are currently at work on a set of standards based on the IADC guidelines. ...[Full Story](#)