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Slashback: Things, Stuff, Items

Posted by [timothy](#) on Tuesday May 15,

@06:59PM

from the and-other-assorted dept.

Slashback tonight with more on patents, Douglas Adams, and becoming a Jedi in New Zealand. Please read below for the details;)

([Read More...](#) | [3682 bytes in body](#) | [33 of 71](#) comments)

U.S. Intellectual Property Law Goes Global

Posted by [Roblimo](#) on Tuesday May 15,

@06:33PM

from the and-they-went-to-the-hague dept.

That's a large part of the intent of the Hague Convention on Jurisdiction and Foreign Judgments, tempered by other countries' desire to have *their* copyright and patent laws enforceable worldwide, too. Today I attended a [public roundtable discussion](#) about this [treaty proposal](#) at the U.S. Library of Congress. (more)

([Read More...](#) | [9093 bytes in body](#) | [30 of 58](#) comments)

Science: Mystery Force Affecting Probes

Posted by [michael](#) on Tuesday May 15,

@05:47PM

from the VGER-awakening? dept.

imipak writes: *"The BBC [reports](#) that after exhaustive investigations, NASA scientists have run out of possible explanations for the mysterious tiny course deflections experienced by the Pioneer and Voyager spacecraft as they head out of the solar system towards the heliopause. Could it be that there's something wrong with our theory of gravity? (Well, yes, [we already know that...](#)) or could it be [Oort Cloud objects](#)? The tenth planet? Informed comment, please!"*

([Read More...](#) | [143 of 233](#) comments | [Science](#))

Homebrewed In-Dash CD-ROM Player

Posted by [timothy](#) on Tuesday May 15,

@04:45PM

from the nice-instructions dept.

[DrD8m](#) writes: *"Hardware is changing faster every day, It's very sad to throw away old hardware. This is*

Science

- [Mystery Force Affecting Probes](#)
- [One Of The Universe's Secrets Has Fallen](#)
- [Ballistic Quantum Wires Conduct Superbly](#)
- [New \(Ancient\) Civilization In Central Asia](#)
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Older Stuff

[Monday](#) May 14

- [Delphion To Start Charging For Patent Access](#) (158)
- [Finding American Companies for Overseas Work?](#) (356)
- [Sony's Double Density CD-RW Drive Reviewed](#) (243)

an [example](#) for recycling it. It's a Computer Audio CD Car Player HOWTO. Using an old computer CD drive in your car. Easy to do and Cool! Are there any projects like this? I'm sure there are, but I don't want to be a N.A.S.A. engineer to do it." This is the best kind of online instruction -- well-illustrated, no guarantees, creative re-use.

([Read More...](#) | [73](#) of [125](#) comments)

Las Vegas's Seedy Technical Underbelly

Posted by [timothy](#) on Tuesday May 15,
@03:44PM

from the [do-you-realize-the-street-value-this-desert?](#) dept.

An unsigned submission notes: "Kevin Poulsen's new article on cybercrime in Vegas features tons of cool stuff from pimps, prostitutes, and Gambino family mob hits to an explanation of Sprint's telephone infrastructure. Check it out [at SecurityFocus](#) ..." This stuff is worthy of a book.

([Read More...](#) | [57](#) of [101](#) comments)

Ask Slashdot: Do You Have Your 'Crisis Week'?

Posted by [Cliff](#) on Tuesday May 15,
@02:39PM

from the [how-do-you-handle-stressful-situations](#) dept.

[pmbarth](#) asks: "This week, the large company I work at is having a 'Crisis Week', where we simulate different types of problems, and have training on how to deal with them. Beyond the normal fire drills or chemical spills, a new addition was 'Attack on IT Infrastructure'. I was wondering how many other companies out there are actually training their non-IT employees on how to be aware of, and perhaps even counteract these types of issues?" It's an interesting idea, and one can't tell when an extra skill one learns on the job may come in use in a critical situation. Do other companies have something similar? Do you think such drills are particularly effective?

([Read More...](#) | [111](#) of [157](#) comments | [Ask Slashdot](#))

RFC for Spammers

Posted by [CmdrTaco](#) on Tuesday May 15,
@12:58PM

from the [but-who-would-read-this](#) dept.

[kousik](#) writes "[rfc3098](#) is out with the title "How to Advertise Responsibly Using E-Mail and Newsgroups or - how NOT to \$\$\$\$\$ MAKE ENEMIES FAST! \$\$\$\$\$". This is a well written piece, and actually is worth reading for anyone doing advertising online. Unfortunately the people who need to understand it will never read it. And the most evil of spammers won't care because (here's the shocker)

- [Microsoft Admits To Backdoor In IIS \[updated\]](#) (365)
- [3D w/o Goggles](#) (146)
- [Nokia's Linux Based Xbox Competitor](#) (235)
- [North Slope Server Farm](#) (232)
- [The Business](#) (123)
- [AnandTech Peeks At The Athlon 4](#) (138)
- [Interesting Structures On Mars](#) (231)

Sunday May 13

- [NASA: Planetary Exploration, Or Better Coffee](#) (230)
- [13-Year-Old Suspended For Hacking Commits Suicide](#) (1194)
- [Experiences w/ Tech-Savvy Politicians?](#) (186)
- [Is Law Copyrighted?](#) (484)
- [Aaron: Computer Program And Artist \(Maybe\)](#) (156)
- [YA Microsoft Linux Screenshot](#) (445)

Older Articles Yesterday's Edition

Slashdot Poll

The Best Is

- ☐ Star Wars
- ☐ Star Trek
- ☐ Star Blazers
- ☐ Star Neal

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Comments: **402** |

Votes: **28159**

Book Reviews

Steven Levy's [Crypto](#) traces the human and technological developments which have brought strong encryption from the high towers of secretive (or wholly secret) government agencies and esoteric academic studies to anyone with a personal

Spam Works. As long as people respond to unsolicited spam, it'll keep coming.

([Read More...](#) | [179](#) of [276](#) comments)

The Feds Thoughts on Clipper

Posted by [CmdrTaco](#) on Tuesday May 15,
@12:20PM

from the stuff-to-think-about dept.

An anonymous reader sent us this article which describes a bunch of stuff released as part of the freedom of information act [regarding the clipper chip](#). Its an interesting look into the government's view of encryption (or at least, what it thought 10 years ago anyway. Now that they have the quantum computer that can crack all all communications, and the quantum disk drives that they use to store every packet ever, they already know your underwear size, to say nothing of a complete copy of your DNA for their cloning efforts).

([Read More...](#) | [93](#) of [147](#) comments)

Book Reviews: Telecosm

Posted by [timothy](#) on Tuesday May 15,
@10:15AM

from the reaching-out-touching-somebody dept.

jsled contributed the below review of the fascinating *Telecosm*, a bound to stretch some perceptions of the world and the place that communication bandwidth plays in how we live in it. *Telecosm* explores the implications of information transfer as an abundant resource and no longer the bottleneck it once was, and raises the question of What's Next.

([Read More...](#) | [6707 bytes in body](#) | [42](#) of [74](#) comments | [Book Reviews](#))

"One-Click" Patent Takes a Hit in Japan

Posted by [CmdrTaco](#) on Tuesday May 15,
@09:31AM

from the cowboy-bebop-and-a-better-patent-office dept.

[natet](#) writes *"The Japan Patent Office once again shows it knows technology. They recently informed Amazon that unless Amazon can show them differently, they will reject the "One-Click" patent on the grounds of prior art."* So there are sane patent offices out there. On an almost completely offtopic and unrelated note, Hemos and I are planning on being in Japan for the Tokyo LinuxWorld in a few weeks, so I'll see you guys there. Bring translators and we can talk about anime ;)

([Read More...](#) | [86](#) of [139](#) comments)

anyone with a personal computer. Unlike [Code Breaking's](#) WWII emphasis, Crypto's main focus is on the latter half of the 20th century.

With help from Manuel Castells and Linus Torvalds, Pekka Himanen has written a modern manifesto about the impact that hackers have had simply by living, working and playing as they do, and appropriately enough, he called it [The Hacker Ethic](#), by way of contrast to earlier attitudes toward work which for a lucky subset of people need no longer apply. See Jon Katz's review of [Rebel Code](#) by Glyn Moody, or timothy's review of [Free For All](#) by Peter Wayner to read about the concrete changes that ethic has wrought.

Delving where angels fear to tread, Sue Wilcox reviewed Steve Grand's [Creation: Life and How to Make It](#), an exploration of the idea that not only is artificial life possible, but is already extant in the controlled environments of digital systems all over the world.

Visit [Our Book Reviews Section](#) for more.

Thinking about writing a book review? Be sure to review our [guidelines](#) before you start.

Update: 3/16 12:39 by [timothy](#)

Quick Links

Cool Sites:

- [AnimeFu](#) (Addicted to Anime?)
- [Penny Arcade](#) (The First one is always Free)
- [The Filthy Critic](#) (He Hates Everything)
- [Everything](#) (Blow your Mind)
- [Old Man Murray](#) (Games... Sorta)

Sony and AOL vs Microsoft

Posted by [CmdrTaco](#) on Tuesday May 15,
@08:58AM

from the allright-thats-just-plain-creapy dept.

[jadrien](#) writes "As the war for the common denominator access platform continues, the only two players that scare Microsoft team up. [This story](#) on CNET news.com details some of the forthcoming collaborations, including keyboard, monitor, mouse, and mozilla." Yes thats right kids, AOL is coming to your PS/2.

([Read More...](#) | [157](#) of [245](#) comments)

Home Improvement

Posted by [michael](#) on Tuesday May 15,
@07:12AM

from the more-power dept.

[Matthew Moyle-Croft](#) writes "On the ISS the Astronauts have been hard at work [building a kitchen table](#) away from the prying eyes of mission control."

([Read More...](#) | [152](#) of [228](#) comments)

EFA: Censorship In Oz Wastes Taxpayers' Money

Posted by [timothy](#) on Tuesday May 15,
@03:07AM

from the yes-the-expurgated-version-please? dept.

[antic](#) writes: "In a report by AustralianIT ([Net censorship a \\$2.5m 'waste'](#)), EFA says that after all the fuss about the Australian government censoring the Internet for Australians, and the government spending a substantial amount of money on the effort, only six complaints about local sites were made in the second 6 months of operation. It suggests that the majority of money spent, and investigations carried out, only helps the largely U.S.-based content filtering industry."

([Read More...](#) | [89](#) of [152](#) comments)

Developers: Linux Grabs World Record For TPC-H Benchmark

Posted by [timothy](#) on Monday May 14,
@11:33PM

from the for-the-moment-that-is dept.

An Anonymous Coward writes: "Linux 2.4.3 now holds the [world record by performance](#) with [IBM's DB2](#) in TPC-H. TPC-H is a decision support benchmark consisting of a suite of business oriented and ad-hoc queries and concurrent data modifications. This is way cool as the world record was held by SQL Server 2000 on Windows 2000 before." Caveats: this is only in the 100GB (smallest)

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Freshmeat Tuesday

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- [RadioActive 1.2.2](#) (Default)
- [phpReview 0.2.1](#) (Development)
- [Macromedia Flash SQL Component Kit 1](#) (Default)
- [PalmWac 0.8](#) (Default)
- [chngpwd 1.0.0](#) (Stable)
- [Gkrinn 0.4](#) (Default)
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category, and all but 2 of the other entries are several months old. Even so;)

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In fiction the recourse of the powerless is murder; in life the recourse of the powerless is petty theft.

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