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⌂ Your Rights Online: First CAN-SPAM Lawsuit Filed in Califor

Posted by [timothy](#) on Saturday March 06, @02:40PM
 from the [this-old-big-house](#) dept.

[rocketjam](#) writes "*Foster City, California-based ISP Hypertouch, Inc. has filed the first lawsuit alleging violations of the new Federal CAN-SPAM Act of 2003.*

The lawsuit was filed against BobVila.com and the spammer they hired, Bluestream Media, for sending Hypertouch customers unwanted, unsolicited email adv for Vila's "Home Again Newsletter." The suit alleges the defendents sent spam email ac fraudulent headers and no physical address. It also alleges the emails were sent to ranu generated and harvested addresses as well as addresses that had replied to opt-out link spams. Hypertouch's attorney, John L. Fallat, said the CAN-SPAM Act offers little prot the public, but they would use the few protections it offers to punish spammers." Reade links to [Wired's coverage of the suit](#).

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⌂ The Memory Masters

Posted by [timothy](#) on Saturday March 06, @01:50PM
 from the [hat-hen-ham](#) dept.

Vaystrem writes "*Wired's Article 'The Masters of Memory' details the outcome of the recent U.S. Memory Championship ,where 'three dozen people who had, in just five minutes, memorized the positions of 52 cards in a shuffled deck and were now happily organizing cards in a new deck into the same order as the pack they had memo The article includes details of "the mind numbing upcoming [world championship](#). Coul half hour 'memorize a random string of thousands of 1s and 0s'?" I'm still working on [mnemonic alphabet](#).*

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⌂ Your Rights Online: Domain-Name Protest Is Protected Spee

Posted by [timothy](#) on Saturday March 06, @12:45PM
 from the [damn-straight](#) dept.

[Lunartik](#) links to this [Detroit Free Press report](#), writing "*The U.S. 6th Circuit Court of Appeals in Cincinnati ruled Friday that Michelle Grosse did not violate the law when she used the name of Lucas Nursery and Landscaping Inc. for a Web site she created to about the Canton, MI nursery. 'This is a very important case,' said Paul Levy, staff atto the consumer advocacy group Public Citizen. 'This is a mainstream circuit court that s the Internet and the name of the company to criticize a company is perfectly legitimate.*

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⌂ Ask Slashdot: Cooking with the Internet?

Posted by [Cliff](#) on Saturday March 06, @12:04PM
 from the [your-browser-as-a-cookbook](#) dept.

[VonGuard](#) asks: "*Not all of you live on ramen and coffee. At some point, you have to cook, and the Internet should be a great place to find recipes. Is there a [Google for recipes](#). And why isn't there a larger [open cookbook](#) on the net? So, is anyone working on this, or is there something the rest of us don't know about yet?"*

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⌈ Your Rights Online: Harlan Ellison vs. AOL Judgment Reversed

Posted by [timothy](#) on Saturday March 06, @11:01AM
from the [no-forwarding-address](#) dept.

[Robotech_Master](#) writes "An appeals court has issued a decision reversing the summary judgment of a lower court that AOL qualified as a "safe harbor" under the DMCA. At issue is the fact that Ellison sent his notification of copyright violation to an email address at AOL, which AOL never received because the abuse submission address had been changed." The complete [decision is available here](#) as a PDF file; read below for an excerpt.



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⌈ British School Offers Elvish Lessons

Posted by [CowboyNeal](#) on Saturday March 06, @09:51AM
from the [tongue-of-the-light-footed](#) dept.

Adair writes "A school in Birmingham, England is offering its students [weekly after-hours lessons in Sindarin](#), a conversational form of Elvish invented by J.R.R. Tolkien and based on Welsh sounds." It won't be long now until the Klingon to Elvish translation books are produced.



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⌈ ATI Releases Drivers for XFree 4.3.0

Posted by [CowboyNeal](#) on Saturday March 06, @08:44AM
from the [better-late-than-never](#) dept.

[Kyouryuu](#) writes "[ATI](#) has finally [released](#) official drivers for XFree 4.3.0 and updated their Linux drivers to 3.7.0 for supported XFree versions, several months after the originally proposed release date of April last year. Although [Schneider Digital](#) has previously made available [unofficial drivers](#), Linux users who have ATI Radeon cards can now benefit from an official release. Unfortunately, ATI still insists on using RPM exclusively and keeping the drivers closed source."



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⌈ Feds Reject Eolas Browser Plug-In Patent

Posted by [CowboyNeal](#) on Saturday March 06, @07:33AM
from the [surprise-turn-of-events](#) dept.

[theodp](#) writes "The USPTO has issued a preliminary decision [invalidating Eolas'](#) [claim](#) to Web browser technology central to a case against Microsoft, which could save the software giant more than half a billion dollars in damages. If upheld, this also means Microsoft will not be required to make changes that would have crippled IE's ability to work with plug-ins like QuickTime and Flash. Eolas has 60 days to respond to the decision. The USPTO has only invalidated 151 patents out of nearly 4 million patents awarded since 1988."



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⌈ Windows XP SP2 Could Break Some Applications

Posted by [CowboyNeal](#) on Saturday March 06, @06:23AM
from the [they-were-cruft-anyway](#) dept.

Denver_80203 writes "An article from InfoWorld states that the [upcoming Windows XP Service Pack 2](#) could break some 'unsecure applications.' In a quote from Tony Goodhew, a product manager in Microsoft's developer group says 'It doesn't really matter how long it is going to take you to do the work; security is an important issue and



developers need to start doing that work now.' Or: 'The great bulk of applications will not be affected by memory protection. The number one that leaps to mind is execution environments with just-in-time code generation. The .Net Framework is one.' Fortunately for us, they are offering a [course](#) to guide the unsecure masses."

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Your Rights Online: Australia-U.S. Trade Agreement Contains DMCA-like Provisions

Posted by [michael](#) on Saturday March 06, @05:05AM
from the exporting-evil dept.

femto writes "The [text](#) of the US-Australian Preferential Trade Agreement has been released. It has significant [implications](#) for Free Software and the Public Domain within Australia. Implications include extension of copyright terms (death to the Public Domain & [Gutenberg Australia](#)), software patents (death to Free Software) and the DMCA (death to fair use). It is not yet law. The [Europeans](#) have shown that software patents are not a done deal. Now is the time to write letters to members of the [House of Representatives](#) and the [Senate](#). Join the [EFA](#). Contact your local [library](#). Sign up to the [mailing list](#) to organise opposition. Just make a noise during this year's [federal election](#)."



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Robotic Bubble Baths for Japan's Elderly

Posted by [michael](#) on Saturday March 06, @02:33AM
from the that's-what-a-robot's-for! dept.

LukePieStalker writes "New York Times (open kimono before entering) is carrying an article on various [robots that are being used in assisted living situations](#). In addition to mentioning the Wakamaru, the story has illustrations of a human washing machine and a description of robotic pants that help those with mobility problems. Apparently, the devices are considered the better choice in a country that is not inclined to grant working visas to foreigners. As Japan's population shrinks, will the robot population make up the difference?"



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Aircraft Maker Will Produce Electric Cars in 2006

Posted by [michael](#) on Saturday March 06, @12:05AM
from the still-waiting-for-flying-electric-car dept.

[clarkie.mg](#) writes "French aircraft maker Dassault has [announced](#) that they will team up with Hydro-Quebec to produce an [electric car](#), available as of [2006](#). Hydro-Quebec will provide the [lithium-metal-polymer \(LMP\) battery](#) and the [wheel motor](#) propulsion system. The car will be built in partnership with a [car specialist](#) and sold in association with a large automaker not yet found."



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The Universal Card

Posted by [michael](#) on Friday March 05, @10:04PM
from the no,-we-mean-universal dept.

retro128 writes "[Wired News](#) is carrying a [story](#) about a new product from [Chameleon Network](#) that's supposed to replace all of your credit/debit/customer cards. It can read the information off of the magnetic strips of credit/debit cards, scan the barcode off of customer loyalty cards, and even memorize the RFID signals of devices



like the Mobil SpeedPass. All of this information is stored in a device called the Pocket Vault, and is unlocked with the user's fingerprint. If you wish to use a magnetic strip card, you select the card from the touch screen and put a Chameleon card, which looks like and can be run in standard readers like a credit card, in the Pocket Vault. The Chameleon card will then assume the identity of the card you selected, but only for 10 minutes. In this way, if the card is lost or stolen, nobody can use it. In the case of RFID, you just hold the Pocket Vault up to the RFID scanner for a reading. For barcode-based cards, the barcode will appear on the screen and can be scanned by a standard barcode reader. Chameleon Network says this technology will be available in early 2005 and is expected to cost under \$200."

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Science: Chernobyl...18 Years Later

Posted by [michael](#) on Friday March 05, @08:05PM
from the post-apocalyptic dept.

abysmilliard writes "A young Ukrainian woman has posted a photo journal of her motorcycle rides through Chernobyl and the area surrounding it. Included are pictures of the now-emptied city, maps of current radiation levels, and a discussion of how the area has changed. While the english is quite broken, it's often rather surreal, as well, with quotes like, 'I don't know how sound the silence to those tourists that they can not stand it, but to me after hitting a red line on my bike tacho it sound like all those ghosts cursing I100cc kawasaki engin.'"



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The Oft Frustrating Job of a Sysadmin

Posted by [michael](#) on Friday March 05, @06:31PM
from the LART dept.

I_Love_Pocky! writes "Sysadmin Co. is a hilarious site built by some sysadmins at an ISP to help them vent their frustrations with dealing with non-tech types. This site is gives a hilarious picture of the daily frustrations of dealing with the inept. I am interested to see if these stories strike a chord with other admins out there."



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Apple: A History of Apple's Operating Systems

Posted by [michael](#) on Friday March 05, @05:07PM
from the where-they-went-wrong dept.

jpkunst writes "Amit Singh of kernelthread.com has written [A History of Apple's Operating Systems](#). From the introduction: 'This document discusses operating systems that Apple has created in the past, and many that it tried to create. Through this discussion, we will come across several technologies the confluence of which eventually led to Mac OS X.'"



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Apple: iPod Mini Sells Out

Posted by [michael](#) on Friday March 05, @03:58PM
from the beanie-babies dept.

[burgburgburg](#) writes "According to USATODAY.com, the iPod mini is virtually sold out after two weeks. As we know, it had 100,000 on pre-order. It's the top seller at the Apple Store, where they advise people that there will be a one to three week wait. And it isn't a component shortage that's causing the delays. It's the huge demand amongst teens



(for the colors) and athletes who like exercising with the ultralight device. While many here on /. felt that the mini was overpriced and pointed out that for \$50 extra, you could buy a regular iPod with 15GB of storage instead of the 4 GB of the mini, Apple seems to have correctly identified the price point and the market they were going after. The space has become so hot that Creative's MuVo2 has also been selling well, but also for a slightly different reason. The MuVo2, which also has 4 GB of capacity, uses a CompactFlash card (which can be used in a digital camera). People have been buying the MP3 player and taking it apart for the card, which would cost more than the \$200 dollars for the MuVo2."

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Building a Large Linux Knowledgebase

Posted by [michael](#) on Friday March 05, @03:03PM

from the bookmarkable dept.

linuxfan writes "*It looks like LinuxQuestions.org is aiming to build the largest independent [Linux-related knowledgebase](#) using a [Wiki](#). They are using the same software as [Wikipedia](#) (MediaWiki), are using a [Creative Commons](#) license and look to be off to a good start.*"



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Spyware on One in Twenty Computers?

Posted by [michael](#) on Friday March 05, @02:17PM

from the PEBKAC dept.

SpaceDonkey writes "*[New Scientist](#) reports that researchers at the University of Washington [carried out a scan](#) of the campus network for signs of spyware. They found spyware lurking on more than one in 20 machines and also discovered a serious vulnerability in two of the four spyware programs they looked for.*"



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Gates on Spam

Posted by [michael](#) on Friday March 05, @01:24PM

from the on-crack,-more-likely dept.

pvt_medic writes "*Microsoft is proposing a new system that would require people to [pay to send e-mails](#). Postage would be in the form of allowing others to use your computer to make calculations, similar to the [SETi@home project](#). There are other systems being suggested that would include monetary stamps and people could decide on accepting an e-mail based off the value of the stamp. (story has great picture of Bill Gates as well)*" Gates' proposed system will be [Microsoft patent-encumbered](#), unsurprisingly.



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Book Reviews: Security Warrior

Posted by [timothy](#) on Friday March 05, @12:40PM

from the mind-the-stun-gun dept.

Peter Wayner writes with a review of O'Reilly's *Security Warrior*: "*Close the doors and they come in the windows. Bar the windows and they slip through some cracks in the foundation. Seal those up and the find another way in through the door. Computer security is an odd pursuit because it's just not possible to have a strong, theory of everything when cracks can appear anywhere. Into this field comes Security Warrior, a book on the topic with a wide ranging collection of tidbits and suggestions on sealing as many holes as you can find.*" Read on for the rest.



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Ask Slashdot: Compensation for Bandwidth Costs is Extortion?

Posted by [Cliff](#) on Friday March 05, @11:53AM

from the [now-this-is-ovekill](#) dept.

Tha_Big_Guy23 asks: *"According to [this article](#), a man who created a website for his local Sheriff's department is being charged with extortion. This was caused by taking down the website after repeated attempts to get compensation from the county to cover the bandwidth costs. As a result, all his personal computer property, and company computer property was seized and he was jailed."*



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QOTD: *"I'm on a seafood diet -- I see food and I eat it."*

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