

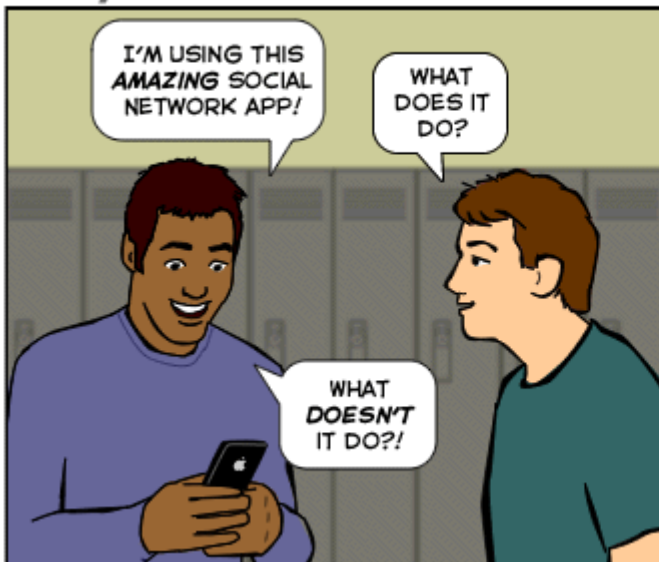
Hamilton PC Computer Club Inc.



<http://www.hamiltoncomputerclub.co.nz/>

The Joy of Tech™

by Nitrozac & Snaggy



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joyoftech.com

<http://www.joyoftech.com/joyoftech/joyarchives/1612.html>

December 2011

THE ROM

INDEX

- 3 President's Report
 - December meeting
- 4 Security/Privacy
 - Security/privacy HOWTOs
- 5 Security/privacy news/developments
- 7 News
 - Microsoft/Windows news
- 9 Other news
- 10 Help, Tips and Tricks
- 11 Photography
- 12 Online resources
 - General news
 - Music
- 13 Software Patents/copyrite/ “intellectual property”
- 14 Technology
 - Technological advances give better energy efficiency
- 15 Diversions
- 16 Next Meetings
 - Club officers

President's Report

This year has seen the rapid rise of social media, notably Facebook and Twitter, and the move from the desktop to “the cloud” - using the internet to access computing power and store data. Laptops, tablets and smartphones are taking over from desktops. Broadband is replacing dialup; fibre and wireless are replacing copper cables.

As I said last year

“We can connect more easily to more people in more ways than ever. We can find more information about more things than ever before. This trend seems set to continue for the foreseeable future.”

The problems also seem set to continue and intensify:

How to find and select the information we want from the mountain of stuff available and to avoid the spam and adverts in the web. Likewise how to limit our communications to those we actually want to communicate with. Privacy and security remain major concerns. Next year promises to have yet more opportunities and problems. The digital world continues to develop at a bewildering pace opening up many possibilities both good and bad. I wish you all the best exploring all the opportunities in the new year. We can all benefit by sharing our successes and failures with each other.

December meeting

Our informal end-of-year get-together is a great opportunity to do just this. Share your successes (and failures if you are game) - we learn more from failures than successes.

Show us your most interesting PC activities.

- the smart/quick way of doing that tedious task
- that useful programme
- that fun or useful online activity
- that interesting website
- discuss an interesting topic
- any other interesting activity

Bring your memory stick, and/or PC.

Share your discoveries using your own or our PC and/or projector if you would like to.

Bring a plate (contribution for supper).

Also let us know what activities you want next year

- use the form in the ROM on page 17,
- or at the meeting to vote for your selection,
- or add new ones -
- or email us at hamiltoncomputerclub@gmail.com .

Finally you can make an offer for the Club printer:

Brother HL-1650 Duplex (prints both sides of the paper) Laser. Specifications here:

http://welcome.solutions.brother.com/bsc/public_s/id/as/nz/en/monolaserpri/hl1650_all/spec/index.html

Next Workshop

The committee decided to have the next workshop in **January instead of December**. This avoids clashes with the many other Christmas activities that most members are involved with and helps fill in what is otherwise a gap in January. We hope this will suit most members.

Security/Privacy

Security/privacy HOWTOs

<http://goo.gl/IB6k7>

Mark Trumbull, Staff writer

Gmail breach: Eight tips to protect your e-mail account

[A clear checklist - Ed]

http://www.pcworld.com/article/243290/how_to_lock_down_your_wireless_network.html

How To Lock Down Your Wireless Network

Securing your wireless network is a simple process that costs nothing and could save you from a disastrous network breach down the road.

By Alex Wawro, PCWorld Nov 11, 2011

A more detailed HowTo

<http://goo.gl/IDpZF>

Lock Down Your Wi-Fi Network: 8 Tips for Small Businesses

By default, Wi-Fi is not secure. But these best practices will help you lock down and encrypt your company's wireless connections, both in and out of the office.

By Eric Geier, PCWorld Nov 17, 2011

<http://pcworld.co.nz/pcworld/pcw.nsf/news/facebook-porn-spam-attack-how-to-protect-yourself>

Facebook porn spam attack: How to protect yourself

Many Facebook users have been inundated with pornographic spam in their newsfeeds as part of a malware campaign targeting the social network. The company told the BBC it has identified the culprit and vulnerability that was exploited, but is asking users to stay vigilant.

Eric Mack | Thursday, November 17 2011

<http://goo.gl/7ZCH5>

Free service lets you see if your email address has been compromised

Has your email or username been snatched by hackers and posted to the internet? You can find the answer to that question at a new online service called Pwnedlist.

John P. Mello Jr. | Monday, November 07 2011

To see if your email address or username is in the service's nearly five million name database of pilfered personal data, you simply type in your information, click check, and Pwnedlist will deliver the good or bad news to you.

<http://www.makeuseof.com/tag/3-ways-find-online-business-legitimate/>

3 Ways To Find Out If An Online Business Is Legitimate

posted on November 15, 2011 by Matt Smith

Search is one of the best ways to arm yourself against potential scam websites. There are places set up for people to post if they feel they were ripped off, or given generally poor customer service. If you Google the

name of the business, followed by the word “scam”, you’ll often find the complaints – if any – against it. Please keep in mind that a single nasty report about a website may not be representative of a business. You should use at least one other means of checking for a legitimate online business.

Besides looking for scam reports, you can also use Google to check for general reviews through Google Shopping. A large number of retailers are found on this service, and users can rate their experiences. In addition, Google lists reviews from some major review sites.

Install Web Of Trust. Web of Trust is one of the most useful extensions for any browser, and it is available for all the most popular options. It catalogs user experience data to develop a profile for a site, which is then shared with all WOT users, giving every user access to the experience of all users.

Security/privacy news/developments

Canadian Privacy Commissioner suggests pro-active approach

http://www.theregister.co.uk/2011/11/03/privacy_commissioner_speaks/

Want to avoid all private-data breaches, ever? Here's how

Wilderness guru speaks, world listens

By Dan Goodin in San Francisco

Posted in Cloud Business, 3rd November 2011 13:13 GMT

The Privacy by Design initiative she spearheaded has become an internationally recognized recipe for embedding privacy protections into the very fabric of a website or product.

Cavoukian: My message through Privacy by Design is try to prevent the harm from arising to begin with. It's a preventative approach. It's proactive, it's holistic. Don't wait for the privacy harm to arise and then you, the business, have to assume the regulatory burden of compliance with the legislation and the ramifications of that breach in terms of loss to your business, to your brand, and the cost of lawsuits.

<http://informationweek.com/news/security/privacy/231902974>

W3C Proposes Do Not Track Privacy Standard

Microsoft, Mozilla, Google, Apple, privacy groups, and online advertising associations work to balance consumers' interests with Web companies' requirements for user data.

By Mathew J. Schwartz InformationWeek

November 14, 2011 12:25 PM

The World Wide Web Consortium (W3C), the standards body that develops the protocols and guidelines for the Web, Monday released the first draft of its proposed standard for implementing "Do Not Track" online.

<http://www.pcpro.co.uk/news/371188/w3c-to-alert-users-to-web-tracking>

W3C to alert users to web tracking

The [proposed new] W3C standards will let users say whether they allow sites and online advertisers to track their web use - commonly called "do not track" or "do not follow" - and how sites can manage those requests. It will also allow users to see which sites aren't removing tracking cookies.

Android smartphones also tracking and recording user information

<http://www.theatlanticwire.com/technology/2011/11/your-smartphone-spying-you/45575/>

Your Smartphone Is Spying on You

Adam Clark Estes, Nov 30, 2011

An Android developer recently discovered a clandestine application called Carrier IQ built into most smartphones that doesn't just track your location; it secretly records your keystrokes, and there's nothing you can do about it. Is it time to put on a tinfoil hat? That depends on how you feel about privacy. Even though it's on most Android, BlackBerry and Nokia devices, most users would never know that Carrier IQ is running in the background, and that's sort of the point.

This site has a video showing how to disable it

<http://www.ghosttheory.com/2011/12/01/conspiracy-is-carrier-iq-recording-your-private-smart-phone-info>

Conspiracy: Is Carrier IQ recording Your Private Smart Phone Info?

Submitted by Scott McMan on December 1, 2011 – 9:10 AM

This site recommends using a custom ROM

<http://thehackernews.com/>

Your Android Phone is Spying On You, Use custom ROM To Protect your Privacy

This app is sitting in between you and the Android OS and is making a note of everything you do. Secure websites don't help. Even using Wi-Fi doesn't help. Your phone use is being logged by this software, and there is no way to easily opt out.

http://www.theregister.co.uk/2011/11/30/zuckerberg_ftc_privacy_mea_culpa/

Zuckerberg submits privacy mea culpa after FTC ruling

'We've made a bunch of mistakes'... bitch

By Kelly Fiveash • Get more from this author

Posted in Music and Media, 30th November 2011

It turns out Facebook is just as bad as Google when it comes to data-handling. And the result is to sit next to Mountain View on the Federal Trade Commission's naughty step by agreeing to a bi-annual privacy review for the next 20 years.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2011/11/23/us/whos-on-the-line-increasingly-caller-id-is-duped.html>

Who's on the Line? Increasingly, Caller ID Is Duped

By MATT RICHTEL Published: November 22, 2011

Caller ID, in other words, is becoming fake ID.

"You don't know who is on the other end of the line, no matter what your caller ID might say," said Sandy Chalmers, a division manager at the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection in Wisconsin. Starting this summer, she said, the state has been warning consumers: "Do not trust your caller ID. And if you pick up the phone and someone asks for your personal information, hang up."

http://www.theregister.co.uk/2011/11/18/android_malware_surge/

Android Market free-for-all blamed for malware avalanche

Symbian VXers advance on the Droids

By John Leyden Posted in Malware, 18th November 2011 09:39 GMT

Android mobile malware samples have increased more than five-fold since July alone, according to a study by Juniper Networks.

One reason for this - Smartphone makers using old Android versions

http://www.theregister.co.uk/2011/11/22/android_patching_mess/

Security takes a backseat on Android in update shambles

Mobe makers sit on new versions for six months

By John Leyden Posted in Mobile, 22nd November 2011 10:21 GMT

<http://pcworld.co.nz/pcworld/pcw.nsf/news/security-firm-lists-dirty-dozen-unsafe-smartphones>

Security firm lists 'dirty dozen' unsafe smartphones

A list of 12 smartphones that pose the highest security and privacy risks to consumers and corporations was released today by a maker of security software.

John P. Mello Jr. | Tuesday, November 22 2011

But maybe help is on the way

http://www.theregister.co.uk/2011/11/16/federal_approved_security_on_android_ios/

New iPhone and Android mobes secure enough for spooks

Platforms to get some serious security packages to rival BlackBerry

By Anna Leach Posted in Government, 16th November 2011 13:32 GMT

How websites use your browser to sell you for cash

Part 2 (See last month's ROM for Part 1)

http://www.theregister.co.uk/2011/11/08/how_to_stay_anonymous_part_ii/

The Evercookie: Like trying to kill Steven Seagal

And running Java is just criminally irresponsible

By Trevor Pott Posted in Cloud, 8th November 2011 13:03 GMT

Part 2 In part one of this series, I explored the privacy threats presented by targeted advertising, and asked why we should care. Browser referral, social media buttons and cookies were examined as examples of basic methods used to track our movements across the internet.

I also explored why advertisers track us, and examined browser plugins that allow us to prevent it. Those plugins come in a few flavours, depending on the threat they are countering and whether or not they trust advertisers to play ball and honour our polite requests not to be tracked.

How to tackle those hard-to-shift LSOs

If you have been hit by LSOs, zombie cookies or even the evercookie, don't lose hope. There are techniques available to deal with all levels of browser-initiated privacy invasion.

Prevention is better than the cure

None of these tools however prevent the LSOs from being created in the first place. This is because in order to do so, you have to prevent the add-ins from running. For that you need something like QuickJava.

News

Microsoft/Windows news

http://www.readwriteweb.com/archives/skydrive_personal_cloud.php

Windows 8 Will Bring Personal Cloud to Billions, Says Microsoft

By Richard MacManus / November 23, 2011

The next version of Microsoft's still dominant PC operating system, Windows 8, "represents an incredible opportunity to bring the benefits of the personal cloud to billions of PC users." That's according to a blog post written by the Group Program Managers for SkyDrive, Microsoft's consumer cloud product.

<http://pcworld.co.nz/pcworld/pcw.nsf/news/skype-flaw-reveals-users-location-file-downloading-habits>

Joan Goodchild | Monday, December 05 2011

Skype flaw reveals users' location, file-downloading habits

Researchers have found a flaw in Skype, the popular Voice-over-Internet-Protocol service which allows users to make video phone calls and internet chat with their computers. The vulnerability can expose your location, identity and the content you're downloading. Microsoft, which owns Skype, says they are working on the problem.

<http://www.zdnet.com/blog/bott/can-microsoft-cure-pc-makers-of-the-crapware-habit/4231>

Can Microsoft cure PC makers of the crapware habit?

By Ed Bott | November 21, 2011, 4:28am PST

Summary: It's easy for an OEM to screw up a new Windows PC. Just add enough trialware and throw in a few unnecessary programs, and the customer gets a miserable out-of-box experience. Microsoft is trying to fix that with its Signature PC initiative. Does it work? And can it scale?

Edd Bott compares Microsoft's Signature (clean install) with the usual manufacturers' crapware-laden configuration and finds the out-of-box experience with a Signature PC is strikingly better.

Also that:

- The upsell nags for antivirus software are particularly annoying on OEM PCs.
- OEMs continue to insist on superfluous control panels, toolbars, and desktop docks that do nothing for usability.
- Extra software causes usability headaches for even simple tasks, like playing a DVD or downloading pictures.

Fred Langa compares Windows 7 Disk Cleanup with third-party cleaners

<http://windowssecrets.com/newsletter/putting-registry-system-cleanup-apps-to-the-test/>

Putting Registry-/system-cleanup apps to the test

By Fred Langa

The most contentious software category has to be PC-system/Registry cleaners. Some users find them invaluable; other users consider them worse than useless.

A series of controlled experiments puts these apps to the test — and turns up some surprises.

.....

Bottom-line conclusions and caveats

Although I encountered no problems from use of the cleaners in the above tests, it must be said that the more advanced, expert-level cleaning tools can royally mess up a system if they're used improperly or too aggressively.

So don't risk destabilizing a solid system for a trivial gain. Stay within your own comfort and skill zone — and always, always, always make a backup before using any cleaning tool.

For me, the bottom line is this: I'll continue using — and recommending — lightweight tools (such as command-line cleanmgr and CCleaner) for routine cleanups and expert-level tools (such as jv16 PowerTools) when simpler software isn't enough.

http://www.theregister.co.uk/2011/11/16/windows_8_auto_updates/

Windows 8 aims to make security updates less painful

Fewer restarts, less desktop clutter

By Dan Goodin in San Francisco Posted in Operating Systems, 16th November 2011 00:35 GMT

Other News

<http://goo.gl/xE3gk>

ITEX: Netflix not coming to NZ

Poor broadband penetration, internet infrastructure and difficulties securing regional distribution deals is keeping Netflix from coming to New Zealand, says Brent Ayrey, vice president of product innovation at Netflix.

Sim Ahmed | Friday, November 25 2011

Netflix provides an on-demand streaming subscription service for television and movies in the US. Its plans start at US\$7.99 a month and subscribers can download as much content as they want.

<http://goo.gl/HhEZ1>

Orcon Genius customers can switch to fibre soon

Orcon has updated customers on its fibre plans and said that users of Orcon's voice over IP device, the Genius, will be able to switch to fibre as soon as fibre is available in their street.

Siobhan Keogh | Friday, November 25 2011

Adobe moving from flash to HTML 5

Adobe risks losing developers in the process

Open standard HTML 5 looks likely to be the standard way of processing multimedia on the internet

http://www.theregister.co.uk/2011/11/15/adobe_donates_flex_sdk_to_open_source/

Adobe Flex SDK bombshell STUNS developers

Open source group takes control

By Tim Anderson Posted in Developer, 15th November 2011 20:59 GMT

http://www.theregister.co.uk/2011/11/11/adobe_flash_analysis/

Adobe's future is controlling what you watch, not delivering it

Streaming video is so 20th century

By Bill Ray • Get more from this author

Posted in Software, 11th November 2011

Adobe's decision to stop developing mobile Flash shouldn't surprise: Adobe can see there's more money in preventing people watching stuff than enabling them to do so.

Voice-recognition now available on Apple, Google, Amazon platforms

<http://www.apple.com/iphone/features/siri.html>

Siri on iPhone 4S lets you use your voice to send messages, schedule meetings, place phone calls, and more.

<http://www.kentucky.com/2011/01/03/1585503/google-launches-next-phase-of.html>

Google launches next phase of voice-recognition project

By Mike Swift — San Jose Mercury News Posted: 12:00am on Jan 3, 2011

http://www.theregister.co.uk/2011/11/11/amazon_voice/

Amazon quietly acquires voice capability

Everyone else is doing it!

By Bill Ray Posted in Mobile, 11th November 2011 08:39 GMT

http://www.theregister.co.uk/2011/11/05/google_tv_still_needs_work/

Google TV 2.0 is all bling and no kerching

Sill picking up pieces from hype bubble burst

Posted in Hardware, 5th November 2011 10:03 GMT

It is easy to be rude about Google TV, but at the back of the mind is the feeling that one day, after successful tinkering, Google may get it right. Yet after initial hype and excitement around the launch, Google has struggled to recover from the dead weight of unfulfilled expectations that followed, and it will take something more than the recent revamping including an improved user interface to regain any sort of momentum.

You don't know whether to laugh or to cry

HP's disastrous decisions cause collapse in its value.

The saga is included in Jules Older's RadioNZ's podcast

http://podcast.radionz.co.nz/aft/aft-20111123-1508-virtual_world_with_jules_older-048.mp3

<http://www.pcpro.co.uk/news/371332/hp-profits-slump-91-as-ceo-hits-reset-button>

HP profits slump 91% as CEO hits "reset" button

By Stewart Mitchell

Posted on 22 Nov 2011 at 08:38

HP says it will increase spending on research and marketing in a bid to breathe life back into the company, after net income plunged by 91% in its fourth quarter results.

Slower sales of consumer computers and costs incurred during the closure of its mobile software business were the prime factors behind the fall in profits, the company said, with new CEO Meg Whitman calling for a "reset and rebuilding year" in 2012.

<http://pcworld.co.nz/pcworld/pcw.nsf/feature/what-were-they-thinking-5-social-media-pr-disasters>

What were they thinking? 5 social media PR disasters

Last week, beleaguered Australian airline Qantas posted a tweet asking customers to tell the company what their idea of 'Qantas luxury' was. The Qantas brand hasn't had the best reputation lately, and as consumer frustration boiled over, the #qantasluxury hashtag was hijacked. It's not the only time a company has made a serious social media mistake - we take a look at five of the worst.

Siobhan Keogh | Tuesday, November 29 2011

Help, tips and tricks

<http://www.readwriteweb.com/cloud/2011/11/how-to-send-large-files-but-no.php>

How to Send Large Files, But Not as Attachments

By David Strom / November 4, 2011

As you mostly know by now, the major Webmail providers limit your attachments to 25 MB, and many corporate email servers have much lower limits because they don't want their servers bogged down with attachments. To get around this problem, a number of file sending service providers have been created. Instead of using an attachment, they send a link in your email that connects you to their service, where you can download the file outside of your email stream.

<http://goo.gl/mPc6q>

Kickass Undelete: Portable Recovery Awesome for Permanently Deleted Files [Windows]

November 12, 2011 by Bobby Travis

It's portable, it's pretty effective, and it's big-button easy. All you need to do is select the drive you want to scan for deleted files, hit the ginormous Scan button, wait a tick, and then sort through the list of deleted files for the one you're looking for. To help you along, Kickass Undelete allows you to sort by Name, Type, Size, and Last Modified date. Select the files you want to restore, then hit the also-sizable Restore Files button, and you're all good!

Kickass Undelete is free and open source. <http://sourceforge.net/projects/kickassundelete/>

How to choose a smartphone

<http://www.makeuseof.com/tag/find-smartphone/>

Can't Decide Which Smartphone To Choose? Here Is One Good Way To Do It

posted on November 22, 2011 by Yaara Lancet

Geekaphone is a smartphone filtering system which lets you screen the sea of smartphones down to those which answer your specific requirements. Don't know where to start? Don't worry, Geekaphone can help you there too.

http://www.readwriteweb.com/archives/what_a_tweet_can_tell_you.php

What a Tweet Can Tell You

By Marshall Kirkpatrick / November 17, 2011

Each tweet has more than 30 fields of metadata under the hood

Years in the making, Datasift <http://datasift.com/> launched today as the second licensed reseller of tweets. The startup doesn't just resell tweets like yesterday's news, though.

Datasift lets anyone parse the full firehose of Twitter messages with its simple Curated Stream Definition Language and see the resulting flow of messages that fit the criteria described.

Photography

Control the embedded information in your photos

<http://gadgetwise.blogs.nytimes.com/2011/11/28/qa-pinning-photos-on-a-map/>

Gadgetwise November 28, 2011, 7:53 pm

Q&A: Pinning Photos on a Map

By J.D. BIERSDORFER

Most digital cameras store information about a picture in the file's EXIF (exchangeable image file format) tag. This data can include details about the image, like the focal length or flash use and can contain location information if the camera or phone records it; photos with embedded GPS data are often referred to as "geotagged."

You can see any embedded GPS coordinates by right-clicking the image and clicking the Details tab in the Properties box, or with a program that displays EXIF data like Preview on Mac OS X. You can then figure out the recorded location by entering those coordinates into a site like Google Maps or another program that plots the numbers on a map.

Using geotagged pictures can be a fun way to remember where you went on vacation. But publicly posting geotagged photos of personal events can cause privacy concerns because they can reveal the location of your house or other possessions.

If this sort of thing concerns you, check your photo program for an option that strips the location data from a picture file. With a quick Web search for "EXIF editor," you can also find software that lets you easily get into a photo's EXIF data to remove GPS coordinates and other information you would prefer to keep private. The MobileActive site <http://bit.ly/gNuE1Q> has a video tutorial on the topic here.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2011/11/29/technology/software-to-rate-how-drastically-photos-are-retouched.html>

Photoshopped or Not? A Tool to Tell

By STEVE LOHR Published: November 28, 2011

Dr. Hany Farid and Eric Kee, a Ph.D. student in computer science at Dartmouth, are proposing a software tool for measuring how much fashion and beauty photos have been altered, a 1-to-5 scale that distinguishes the infinitesimal from the fantastic. Their research is being published this week in a scholarly journal, The Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

Their work is intended as a technological step to address concerns about the prevalence of highly idealized and digitally edited images in advertising and fashion magazines. Such images, research suggests, contribute to eating disorders and anxiety about body types, especially among young women.

Music

<http://goo.gl/evSEz>

Google Music comes out of beta: New store, player, and social integration

Google Music is no longer in beta and is now open to the public - and you'll still be able to upload and stream up to 20,000 songs for free.

Ginny Mies | Thursday, November 17 2011

<http://mediadecoder.blogs.nytimes.com/2011/11/16/google-opens-a-digital-music-store/>

Media Decoder, November 16, 2011, 6:55 pm

Google Opens a Digital Music Store

By BEN SISARIO

Looking to extend its reach as a hub for entertainment and social networking, Google introduced a set of music features on Wednesday, including a download store to compete with iTunes.

The service, Google Music, will sell individual tracks and full albums, letting customers store the songs on servers, on so-called cloud accounts. And through an integration with Google's nascent social network, Google+, the company will also let customers share music by offering friends one free listen to any bought

track.

Google Music puts the company in direct competition with Apple, Amazon and Facebook. Many analysts saw the move as part of an escalating war among those companies to develop consumer environments.

<http://goo.gl/NfJJs>

Google Music goes live. Should Amazon and Apple be worried?

Google Music, a new MP3 store, was officially launched this week. So what makes Google Music different?
By Matthew Shaer / November 17, 2011

<http://goo.gl/NcL7z>

Review: iTunes Match wins cloud music war by wisp

By Ryan Nakashima AP Business Writer / November 28, 2011

Online resources

<http://www.makeuseof.com/tag/10-creative-commons-projects-pay-attention/>

10 Different Creative Commons Projects That You Should Definitely Pay Attention To
posted on November 11, 2011 by Saikat Basu

Let's take a look at five Creative Commons projects that could give you great content to look over and share for the price of a credit byline.

[You know about Wikipedia and Youtube, but you could be surprised by some the others. - Ed]

General News

Software Patents/copyrite/ "intellectual property"

IT opposition growing to US's Stop Online Piracy Act (SOPA)

<http://goo.gl/wsxC>

SOPA fight over 'Internet censorship' attracts Yahoo, Google

SOPA "jeopardizes" Internet business, claim Twitter, Google, Yahoo and others. The SOPA bill amounts to "Internet censorship," some argue.

By Matthew Shaer / November 17, 2011

http://www.theregister.co.uk/2011/11/16/mozilla_sopa/

Mozilla stirs netizens against US anti-piracy law

By Gavin Clarke • Get more from this author

Posted in Law, 16th November 2011 13:41 GMT

<http://opinion.latimes.com/opinionla/2011/09/technology-entrepreneurs-blast-the-protect-ip-act.html>

Technology: Entrepreneurs blast the Protect IP Act

September 8, 2011

The Protect IP Act, an entertainment industry-backed bill to combat online piracy, has drawn fire from tech advocacy groups, law professors and noteworthy engineers who worry about its effects on the Internet

ecosystem. Now, more than 100 tech entrepreneurs and executives are adding their voices to the opposition, sending a letter to members of Congress warning about the threat the bill poses to startups, innovation and economic growth.

The signatories include such notables as Evan Williams, former chief executive of Twitter and founder of Blogger; Reid Hoffman, co-founder of LinkedIn; Mark Pincus, founder of Zynga; Jeff Pulver, founder of Vonage; and Jonathan Abrams, founder of Friendster and Socializr. Although many of the other names and company affiliations will no doubt be lost on the residents of Washington, D.C., their cumulative accomplishments should at least earn their concerns a hearing. According to the letter, the 130 executives listed have "created over 50,000 jobs directly through our companies and hundreds of thousands, if not millions, more through the technologies we invented, funded, brought to market and made mainstream."

Technology

<http://goo.gl/dPb04>

Lytro cameras: Focus pictures after you take them

Lytro introduces a new 'light field' camera that may change the face of photography.

By Chris Gaylord, Staff writer / November 17, 2011

Instead of dealing in megapixels, Lytro measures its cameras in megarays, or how many rays of light it captures with each snapshot. By pulling in information from the entire scene – including the intensity and angle of up to 11 million rays of light – Lytro cameras can focus on any object within the frame seconds or days after the shutter snapped.

"It represents a really big shift in cameras – in capturing an entirely new kind of data," says Ren Ng, Lytro's founder and chief executive.

Technological advances give better energy efficiency

http://www.theregister.co.uk/2011/10/20/arm_biglittle_processor/

0.5mm² ARM chip offers 5X energy efficiency, jacks up performance

big.Little extends Moore's Law

By Anna Leach • Get more from this author

Posted in PCs & Chips, 20th October 2011

ARM's new energy efficient Cortex-A7 processor will bring computing to a billion more people, its CEO claimed yesterday. Which may or not be a good thing.

For the rest of us, harnessed to one of their most powerful processors, the A15, it will also form the basis for a System on a Chip that will make two processors work as one and enable additional power gains and energy savings.

ARM CEO Warren East claimed on Wednesday in London that at both five times more energy efficient and twice as powerful as current mainstream smartphone chips

<http://www.pcpro.co.uk/news/370099/nvidias-quad-core-mobile-processor-has-five-cores>

Nvidia's quad-core mobile processor has five cores

By Nicole Kobie Posted on 22 Sep 2011 at 09:35

Nvidia's "Kal-EI" mobile processor has an extra core hidden away, the chip maker has revealed.

Nvidia said its quad-core Kal-EI features a "companion core" that runs at a lower frequency, drawing less power to run basic background tasks.

"During less power-hungry tasks like web reading, music playback and video playback, Kal-EI completely powers down its four performance-tuned cores and instead uses its fifth companion core," said Matt Wuebbling, director of product marketing for Tegra, writing on Nvidia's blog.

"For higher performance tasks, Kal-EI disables its companion core and turns on its four performance cores, one at a time, as the work load increases," Wuebbling said.

<http://www.technologyreview.com/energy/38578/>

Intel Chases a More Power-Efficient Future

An improved microprocessor and a deal with Google could lead to more Intel chips in mobile devices.

Wednesday, September 14, 2011

By Will Knight

Intel has announced a line of more power-efficient microprocessors for smart phones and tablets that could help recapture some of this increasingly valuable market segment. At the Intel Developers Forum (IDF) in San Francisco this week, the company also announced that it's forming an alliance with Google to get the Android operating system released more quickly for Intel hardware.

<http://goo.gl/AHU5s>

Battery breakthrough could keep smart phones charged for an entire week

Scientists at Northwestern University announced new technology for batteries that could last 10 times as long and charge 10 times as fast as they do today. What would it be like to charge your laptop from empty to full in 15 minutes?

By Jeff Ward-Bailey / November 21, 2011

<http://goo.gl/vDFuq>

Qualcomm challenges LCDs through new e-reader

By Sam Kim Associated Press / November 24, 2011

SEOUL, South Korea—A new electronic display is poised to challenge power-hungry LCDs after U.S. mobile chip maker Qualcomm Inc. teamed up with a South Korean bookseller to introduce a new e-reader.

The mirasol display uses ambient light instead of its own in much the same way that a peacock's plumage gets its scintillating hues. Qualcomm's mirasols have already been used in a few Chinese and South Korean phones, and in an MP3 player on the U.S. market. The display contains tiny mirrors that consume power only when they're moving, easing battery drain. Mirasol displays also quickly change from one image to the next and show video.

Diversions

PCWorld New Zealand's weekly list of diversions

<http://pcworld.co.nz/pcworld/pcw.nsf/news/friday-fun-robotic-spiders-barrell-rolls-and-nerd-rage>

Friday fun: Robotic spiders, barrell rolls, and tablets dropped from choppers

Fridays can be long (yes, even for those of us with super cool jobs). We're going to spend Friday afternoons entertaining you with an assortment of weird stories and time wasters we found on the internet, and in the process hopefully entertain ourselves.

Siobhan Keogh | Friday, November 04 2011

Next meeting:

Date: Thursday December 10th 6.00pm. Members informal end-of-year get-together

Venue: Te Whare o te Ata, the Fairfield/Chartwell Community House, 60A Sare Crescent

Topic: Members show their favourite PC activities – favourite tips and tricks, that useful programme , that fun or useful online activity , that interesting website , or any other interesting activity

Next workshop:

Date: Saturday November 12th 10AM – 4PM

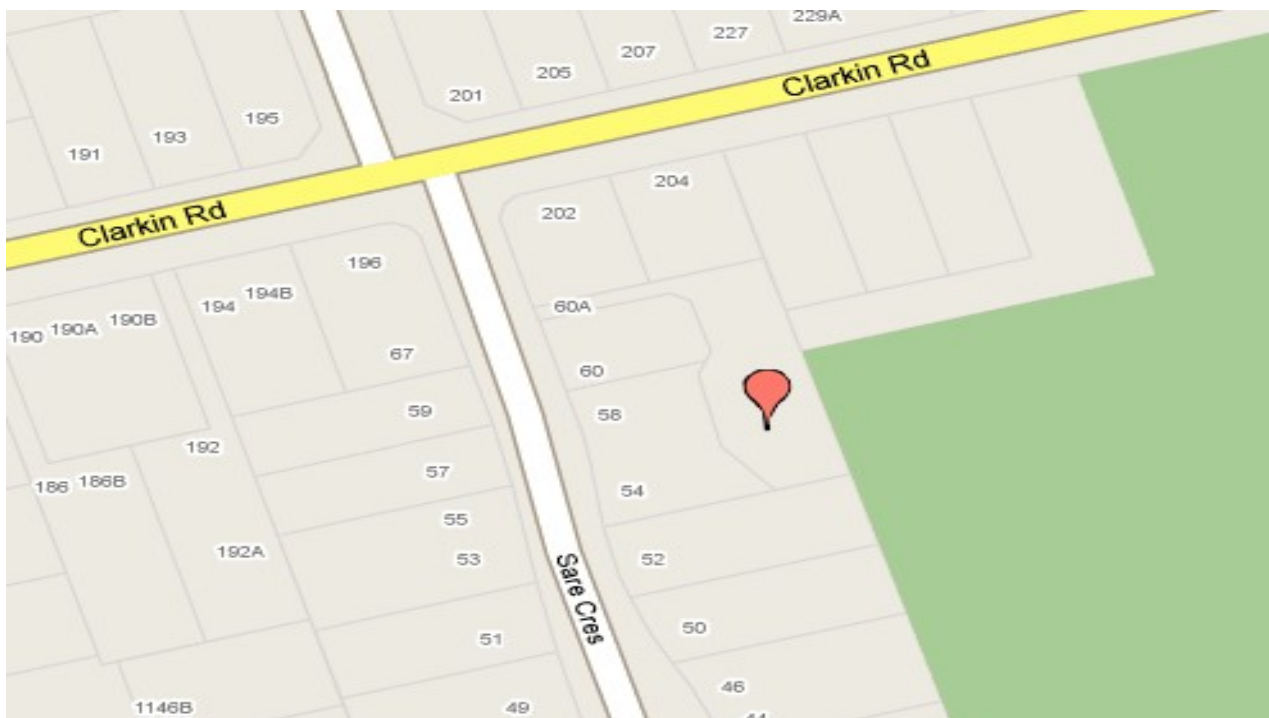
Venue: Te Whare o te Ata, the Fairfield/Chartwell Community House, 60A Sare Crescent

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