



The Paper Modem

February 2005 Volume 5 Issue 1

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MSN takes on Google dominance with own search engine

Louise Scodie, Brand Republic 08:00 01-02-2005

LONDON - MSN is launching its MSN Search search engine, Microsoft's first, today making it available to users in 24 markets as it seeks to gain ground on Google and Yahoo!.

Microsoft is hoping that [MSN Search](#) will entice users away from Google, currently the most popular search engine on the web. MSN's search service was previously provided by Yahoo!.

The site has been developed from MSN's

beta search engine, launched in November, and incorporates new features following feedback from users of the test search page, along with the benefits of what Microsoft says is "its further developed search engine technology".

The result is a search engine that aims to provide surfers with more precise and relevant answers from a growing selection of web documents, images and news sources, along with expanded access to online encyclopaedia Microsoft Encarta.

MSN Search is able to answer direct questions such as "What was the final score in

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Pronounced **ramm**, acronym for **random access memory**, a type of computer memory that can be accessed randomly; that is, any byte of memory can be accessed without touching the preceding bytes. RAM is the most common type of memory found in computers and other devices, such as printers.

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the 1965 FA Cup final?", similar to Ask Jeeves, and refreshes its document index every two days, giving the most current results possible.

Customers will also be able to use the search builder tool, whereby searches can be conducted by certain search criteria such as specific websites, country, region or language.

A menu of adjustable onscreen "graphic equalizers" enables users to adjust their search criteria as they go along.

Category-specific tabs such as web, news, images and Encarta also allow users to fine-tune search results.

Yusuf Mehdi, corporate vice-president of MSN Information Services & Merchant Platform division at Microsoft, said: "The final version of our MSN search service provides us with an infrastructure that allows us to continually and rapidly deliver innovative new features that give consumers precisely the information they're looking for, no matter where it's located."

Submitted by: Y. Bulger



MSBlast.b Hacker Gets 18 Months In Jail Jan. 31, 2005

A federal judge has sentenced Jeffrey Lee Parson, a teen hacker who created 2003's MSBlast.b worm.

Citing neglectful parents and an Internet that she said was a "dungeon" for lonely people, a federal judge Friday afternoon sentenced Jeffrey Lee Parson, a teen hacker who created 2003's MSBlast.b worm, to 18 months in prison, less than half the time prosecutors had requested.

U.S. District Judge Marsha Pechman added three years of supervision after his release, and ordered him to perform 100 hours of community service. A restitution hearing will be held next month to decide what amount Parson, 19, must pay Microsoft and several individuals to make up damages for his worm.

Read the rest of this article at:
http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2005-01/31/content_2529366.htm

Submitted by: Y. Bulger



Pronounced *rahm*, acronym for *read-only memory*, computer memory on which data has been prerecorded. Once data has been written onto a ROM chip, it cannot be removed and can only be read.



New Free Version of AVG?

What it cannot do!

1. It cannot be installed on server operating systems (such as Windows Server 2003), nor can it be used for scanning of network drives.
2. Scheduling options in the AVG Free Edition are very limited (only one scheduled update per day, one scheduled scan per day etc.)
3. AVG Free Edition does not offer advanced testing options, such as automatic healing, password-protected archives reporting, adjustment of scan process priority and many others.

Why AVG Professional Single Edition over AVG FREE?

1. Free, 24/7 email access to Grisoft's technical support, and "Akamai" for downloading update files .
2. Support of multiple languages -

English, German, Czech, Slovak, French, Brazilian Portuguese, Polish and Serbian are supported at the present time.

3. Additional languages are under development. They are about to release the Latin-American Spanish version of AVG Anti-Virus - timeline is about 2 weeks from today. There are 3 other language versions - Italian, Dutch, Hungarian - that we are targeting to begin localizing this year.

4. The ability to create user-defined tests and schedules, and the option to define directories that will be excluded from the resident shield protection

At approximately CND\$45 AVG Version 7.0 is good for two years.

All support for AVG Version 6 ends on February 15, 2005, including virus database updates, program updates and technical support, all will be discontinued on this date!

For further information: www.grisoft.com

Submitted by: Y. Bulger



Short for *digital versatile disc* or *digital video disc*, a type of optical disk technology similar to the CD-ROM. A DVD holds a minimum of 4.7GB of data, enough for a full-length movie. DVDs are commonly used as a medium for digital representation of movies and other multimedia presentations that combine sound with graphics.



Why Computers Sometimes Crash!

by Dr. Seuss

If a packet hits a pocket on a socket on a port,

and the bus is interrupted at a very last resort, and the access of the memory makes your floppy disk abort, then the socket packet pocket has an error to report.

If your cursor finds a menu item followed by a dash, and the double-clicking icon puts your window in the trash, and your data is corrupted cause the index doesn't hash, then your situation's hopeless and your system's gonna crash!

If the label on the cable on the table at your house, says the network is connected

to the button on your mouse, but your packets want to tunnel to another protocol, that's repeatedly rejected by the printer down the hall.

And your screen is all distorted by the side effects of gauss, so your icons in the window are as wavy as a souse; then you may as well reboot and go out with a bang, 'cuz sure as I'm a poet, the sucker's gonna hang.

When the copy on your floppy's getting sloppy in the disk, and the macro code instructions is causing unnecessary risk, then you'll have to flash the memory and you'll want to RAM your ROM, and then quickly turn off the computer and be sure to tell your Mom!

Well, that certainly clears things up for me. How about you?

Submitted by: Ben Poudrier



Locker gnome 31.1.05

Many people know that Picasa just reached the age of 2.0. Let this serve as notice to those who might have missed that or those who felt that it wasn't a big deal, you're missing out on a good thing.

Picasa wasn't released as a 2.0 product without changes. Remember - this is Google we're talking about. Picasa 2.0 is a whole lot more than version 1 ever tried to be. The main new feature is the inclusion of an almost completely redesigned photo editor. Oh, it hides behind a screen

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A very fast external bus standard that supports data transfer rates of up to 400Mbps (in 1394a) and 800Mbps (in 1394b). Products supporting the 1394 standard go under different names, depending on the company. Apple, which originally developed the technology, uses the trademarked name *FireWire*.

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that looks just like the opener for the version 1 editor, but now, it really IS a photo editor, boasting nearly all the tools you need in order to clean up the look of your digital photos.

This is a First Look, so I'll leave you all to

discover the goodies under the hood. Suffice it to say that Picasa has just joined some other very good software on my 'must install' list.

Download: <http://www.picasa.com/>

Submitted by: G. Bulger

Kodak bid expected to take Creo dissidents out of picture!

By PETER KENNEDY - <http://www.globetechnology.com/>



Tuesday, February 1, 2005

VANCOUVER -- Eastman Kodak Co.'s \$980-million (U.S.) bid for Creo Inc. is expected to silence dissident shareholders who have been pushing to shake up the company and find a buyer.

Kodak, which targeted Creo for its leading computer-to-plate technology that eliminates the need for film in the imaging of printing plates, is expected to lay off up to 40 per cent of Creo's work force, according to stock analysts.

With the \$16.50 a share cash offer for Burnaby, B.C.-based Creo, Kodak is continuing its strategic shift away from its traditional film business toward digital products. If successful, the move would complete a \$3-billion string of acquisitions designed to shift the company away from chemical film and into digital printing. Creo's pre-press software converts digital files and drives computer-to-plate devices used in the printing of books, magazines and packaging.

For more on this article go to:

<http://www.globetechnology.com/summary/News.html>

Submitted by: Ben Poudrier



Electronic junk mail or junk newsgroup postings. Some people define spam even more generally as any unsolicited e-mail. However, if a long-lost brother finds your e-mail address and sends you a message, this could hardly be called spam, even though it's unsolicited. Real spam is generally e-mail advertising for some product sent to a mailing-list or newsgroup.



Mass Mailed Worms Here To Stay

By [Gregg Keizer](#),
February 01, 2005 (2:47 PM EST)
- TechWeb

Predictions of the demise of the mass-mailed worm are premature, a security researcher said Tuesday.

"I think that's maybe wishful thinking," said Pete Simpson, the manager of ClearSwift's threat lab as the security firm released its annual 2004 retrospective report.

Some analysts have said that the traditional mass-mailed worms -- like Bagle and Netsky and MyDoom, all big names in 2004 -- will fall by the wayside as hackers and criminals turn to other techniques, such as network worms that use operating system vulnerabilities to compromise computers ala Sasser. Simpson says the report of their death, to paraphrase Mark Twain, has been greatly exaggerated.

"We've seen several Bagles and MyDooms in the last few weeks. I don't think [mass-mailed worms] are lying down. Instead, they'll diversify by mixing other attack avenues rather than dropping mass-mailing."

That trend of increasing complexity has been cited by security experts for the past two years. In early 2004, the buzzword was "blended threat," but Simpson's term now is "convergence."

"The compartmental labels such as 'virus,' 'worm,' 'Trojan,' 'spyware,' and 'phish' are losing utility," he said, "as multifaceted malware emerges sharing several of these attributes. This is a quite different phenomenon from the so-called 'blended threats' that simply use several spreading vectors, such as mass-mailing, network shares, and file-sharing networks."

Simpson expects that the comparatively overt style of phishing attacks known today -- where scammers must dupe users into visiting a fake Web site and spilling personal secrets such as credit card or bank account numbers -- will soon be replaced by a more insidious threat.

Already seen in limited numbers, this newer style of phishing relies on planting spyware, usually key loggers but sometimes also screen capture software, on compromised computers to invisibly watch users. "Phishing primarily will become a matter of inserting spyware. That lets the criminals just sit back and wait until the user does, say, his online banking, and then snaps up the keystrokes."

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Short for **Joint Photographic Experts Group**, and pronounced *jay-peg*. JPEG is a lossy compression technique for color images. Although it can reduce files sizes to about 5% of their normal size, some detail is lost in the compression.

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To get this spyware on users' PCs, phishers are, and will increasingly, use malicious code like worms, or team with worm or virus writers, to attack, infect, and take control of numbers of computers. There were signs late in 2004, however, that some were using another method: by drawing users to the legitimate sites, but then exploiting vulnerabilities within the browser, primarily Microsoft's Internet Explorer, they managed to load spyware on machines.

A side effect of such a shift in phishing will be to open the scamming playing field to even more criminals. Phishing attacks now require some sophistication, since the bogus Web site has to mimic the real thing, and URLs must be spoofed or

disguised to trick the greatest number of people. And large-scale spam campaigns must be launched to get out the huge numbers of e-mails required for a successful rip-off.

That goes out the window when phishers rely on spyware to help them steal identities. "If they're monitoring all the keystrokes or images on the screen there's no need to build a replica Web site, is there?" asked Simpson.

Simpson's take on 2005 is decidedly gloomy. "I don't see any reversal in this trend [of more dangerous threats]," said Simpson, "not one criminal elements involved in money-making schemes are broadly established [in hacking]."



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What's on in February



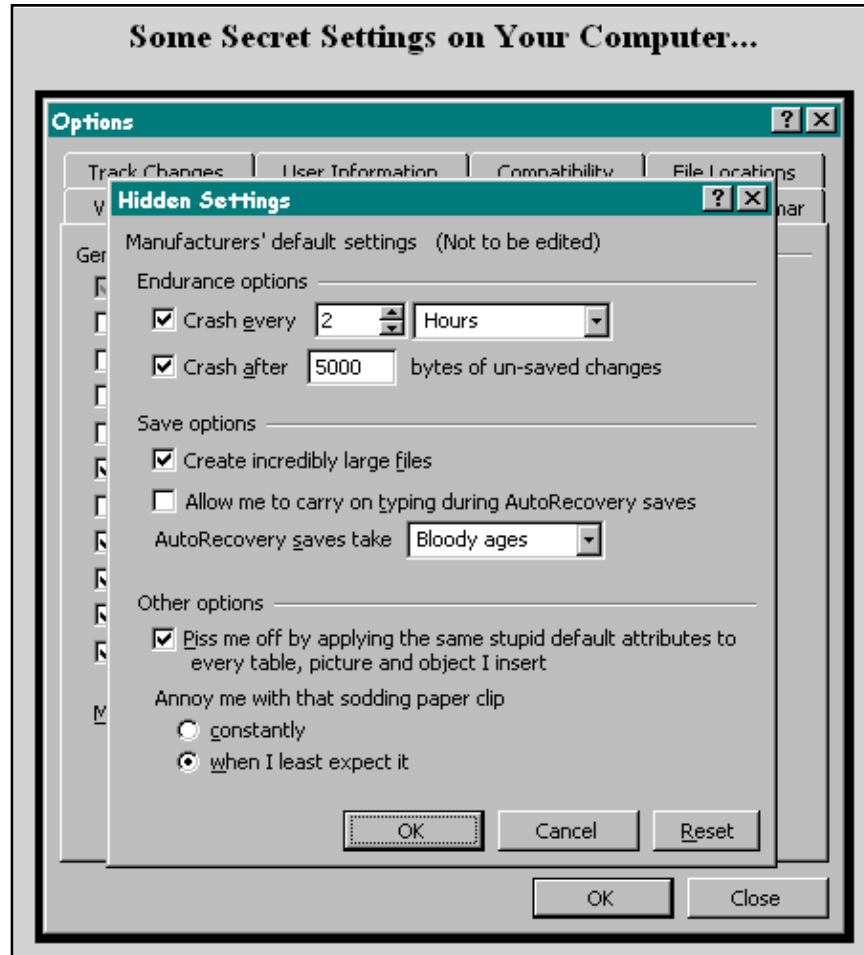
February 9th—Microsoft Streets & Trips
Presented by Bob Goerzen

February 15th—PhotoShop Elements Continued
Presented by - Steve Wawrykow



Pronounced *jiff* or *giff* (hard *g*) stands for **graphics interchange format**, a bit-mapped graphics file format used by the World Wide Web, CompuServe and many BB's. GIF supports color and various resolutions. It also includes data compression, but because it is limited to 256 colors, it is more effective for scanned images such as illustrations rather than color photos.





Short for *HyperText Markup Language*, the authoring language used to create documents on the World Wide Web.



HP: We have the next transistor -

Claims 'crossbar latch' is the next step that will result in computers thousands of times faster.

February 1, 2005 6:13 AM EST

NEW YORK (Reuters) - Hewlett-Packard Co. said Tuesday that its researchers have proven that a technology they invented could eventually replace the transistor, a fundamental building block of computers.

In a paper published in Tuesday's *Journal of Applied Physics*, HP said three members of its Quantum Science Research group propose and demonstrate a "crossbar latch," which provides the signal restoration and inversion required for general computing without the need for transistors.

HP said in a statement that the technology

could result in computers that are thousands of times more powerful than those that exist today.

"We are reinventing the computer at the molecular scale," said Stan Williams, one of the authors of the paper, in a statement.

"The crossbar latch provides a key element needed for building a computer using nanometer-sized devices that are relatively inexpensive and easy to build."

Phil Kuekes, another one of the paper's authors, said in a statement that transistors would continue to be used for years to come with conventional silicon circuits.

More on this article, go to:

http://money.cnn.com/2005/02/01/technology/hp_transistor.reut/index.htm?cnn=yes

Submitted by: Y. Bulger



Known by its abbreviation, *CD*, a compact disc is a polycarbonate with one or more metal layers capable of storing digital information. The most prevalent types of compact discs are those used by the music industry to store digital recordings and CD-ROM's used to store computer data. Both of these types of compact disc are read-only, which means that once the data has been recorded onto them, they can only be read, or played.

Canada Top 4 Canadian Tax Software Programs

From [Susan Ward](#),
Your Guide to [Small Business: Canada](#).

Today's tax preparation software does more than just let you calculate your income tax and send in your return. Most tax software programs include tax planning features, so you can analyze different tax scenarios. If your business is a sole proprietorship or partnership, you'll be able to use any of the tax software in this article; if your business is incorporated, your options are more limited. All these tax software programs are CCRA approved.

1) [QuickTax](#)

This user-friendly tax software program lets you prepare your income taxes easily and quickly. The EasyStep Interview leads you through the process by asking questions in plain English, and tax planning is a snap because of the ability to run multiple tax scenarios, and features such as the capital gains analyzer and incorporation analyzer. Many Windows versions are available, including one for incorporated businesses.

2) [TaxWiz](#)

This tax software program for preparing

personal income tax has many of the features QuickTax has, such as the ability to run "what if" scenarios, popup help, and multiple filing options, but unlike QuickTax, there is no corporate version, and the CD-Rom is only available for Windows.

3) [GriffTax](#)

This is another fully functional user-friendly Canadian tax preparation software that is available in both individual (T1) and corporate (T2) versions for Macintosh OS, and is fully bilingual. GriffTax Simple, a quick, easy way for "Canadians with simple tax situations" to prepare and NetFile their income tax, is available for Windows.

4) [UFile.ca](#)

UFile offers online tax preparation and filing only. Essentially you log on, enter your income tax information using an interview interface, and print and send in or NetFile your return when you're finished. Currently the web site only offers personal income tax preparation (T1), but it has the capability to handle any kind of self-employment income and calculate capital gains.

Submitted by: Y. Bulger



The End