

Demo feed (from Slashdot)

News for nerds, stuff that matters

<http://slashdot.org/>

SETI Disrupted By Cell Phones in Airplanes?

Iphtashu Fitz writes "If, as recently mentioned, the FCC does allow wireless access on airplanes, could it effectively mean the end of the search for ET? NewScientist has a new article that explains how radio interference from airborne cellphones could drown out faint radio signals from space. Among other concerns astronomers have is that the second harmonic of many cell phones falls in a frequency band that reveals the molecular signature of newborn and dying stars, which is among the 2% of frequencies in this part of the electromagnetic spectrum reserved for use by radio astronomers. Michael Davis, director of projects at California's SETI Institute, stated that a single cellphone on an airplane 100 miles from a radiotelescope could exceed recommended radio noise levels by 10 times. A potential solution that astronomers have suggested is to install a miniture cell transceiver on each airplane, called a picocell, that would act as a relay using a frequency that wouldn't interfere with their work."

<http://science.slashdot.org/article.pl?sid=05/06/09/177243&from=rss>

Simpsons Film in Preproduction

93,000 writes "According to Yahoo news, a Simpsons feature film is now in preproduction. In TFA, Nancy Cartwright is quoted as saying "We've just done the table read for The Simpsons movie, so although we've been promoting that we're going to do it, now we're actually doing it and are in production . . ." Also from TFA: "They are working on hammering out a script, but there's no title or production date or release date,' studio spokeswoman Antonia Coffman told E! Online Wednesday. 'We always wanted the show to end first but it just keeps going. Now they've worked out a team to simultaneously do [both the film and show].'"

<http://slashdot.org/article.pl?sid=05/06/09/1551223&from=rss>

If Bad Software Developers Built Houses...

Richo99 writes "The editor at UI Hall of Shame takes us for a walk through a house designed by bad software developers. It appears Ed is getting a bit tired of really bad software designs in popular shareware titles. It is interesting because how much of a crime these apps perpetrate isn't obvious until you apply the same logic to everyday things, like the design of a house. I especially love the access to the garden. "

<http://developers.slashdot.org/article.pl?sid=05/06/09/173240&from=rss>

The Formula for a Successful Sitcom

indylaw writes "A team of scientists commissioned by British satellite channel UKTV Gold has developed a mathematical expression to predict the success of TV sitcoms. Using the formula $[(R \times D + V) \times F] + S/A$, they determined that "Only Fools and Horses" and "The Office" are the best of British comedy, while "According to Bex" (which is being adapted for CBS in the fall and will star Jenna Elfman) scored in the bottom five."

<http://science.slashdot.org/article.pl?sid=05/06/09/1543247&from=rss>

Nerds Make Better Lovers

ultimabaka writes "The New York Daily News, fine bastion of reporting that it is, released an article today discussing the rise of nerd popularity among women in general, and famous women in particular. Detail is given into the dating exploits of Christina Aguilera and Elin Nordegren (nerdy Tiger Woods' supermodel squeeze), among a bunch of regular Janes. Apparently being a nerd is now in?"

<http://slashdot.org/article.pl?sid=05/06/09/1440226&from=rss>

Computer Security Lacking at Homeland Security

peter303 writes "The New York Times (reg. required) reports that computer backup procedures are woefully inadequate at 19 centers of the Department of Homeland Security. Should this agency strive to be good example for the rest of the country and protect against extreme hackers? " From the article: "Adequate backups were lacking for networks that screen airline passengers, that inspect goods moving across borders and that communicate with department employees and outside officials. Those same agencies, the auditors found, have in most cases failed to prepare sufficiently written disaster recovery plans that would guide operations if a main office or computer system was knocked out."

<http://it.slashdot.org/article.pl?sid=05/06/09/1444258&from=rss>

The Death of Folders?

saintlupus writes "There's an interesting article on Wired about the interface changes in Tiger being a precursor to the demise of the classic folder-browsing Finder." From the article: "Users type search queries more or less as they did pre-Tiger, but 'the quality, scope and presentation of the results are significantly better, so users get good benefits without having to change their behavior.'"

<http://apple.slashdot.org/article.pl?sid=05/06/09/1436214&from=rss>

Patent Reform Bill Introduced in U.S. House

kanad wrote to mention a ZDNet article covering the introduction of the Patent Reform Act of 2005 to the U.S. House of Representatives. From the article: "Probably the most sweeping change would be the creation of a process to challenge patents after they are granted by the Patent and Trademark Office. 'Opposition requests' can be filed up to nine months after a patent is awarded or six months after a legal notice alleging infringement is sent out. The bill is supported by the USPTO and Microsoft who have been recently asking for patent reforms ." More details of the bill are available at the Congressman's website."

<http://yro.slashdot.org/article.pl?sid=05/06/09/1216221&from=rss>

A Decade of PHP

digidave writes "It was slow to catch and a lot of people didn't get it. A lot of people still don't get it, but you can't argue with its success. June 8th, 2005 marks the tenth anniversary of PHP. Here's to ten more wonderful and exciting years."

<http://developers.slashdot.org/article.pl?sid=05/06/09/127249&from=rss>

Canada To Introduce Copyright Law Next Week

P Starrson writes "A leading Canadian television network is reporting that the Canadian government will introduce copyright legislation next week that will bring DMCA-like provisions north of the border. Amazingly, the Canadian recording industry, which previously praised the reforms, now says they aren't good enough. Canadian law prof Michael Geist cuts through the spin in the pair of blog postings titled Fact and Fiction and CRIA's New Take on Copyright Reform."

<http://yro.slashdot.org/article.pl?sid=05/06/09/123234&from=rss>
