

O'Reilly UK User Group Programme

NEWSLETTER

Issue 01-06

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HIGHLIGHTS

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NEWS FROM O'REILLY AND BEYOND

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General News

***O'Reilly Books on Amazon's Best of 2005

"Head First Java," "Mac OS X: The Missing Manual," and MAKE magazine were voted Best of 2005 in the Computers & Internet category of both the Editors' Picks and the Top 10 Customers' Favorites lists. In addition, "iLife: The Missing Manual," "Mapping Hacks," and "Revolution in the Valley" were all chosen as Editors' Picks in the Digital Life category. Thanks! <http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/tg/browse/-/15959201/ref%3Dgw%5Fbr%5Fbb05/102-5317297-3006519>

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***IP Telephony: You Ain't Seen Nothin' Yet

Developers now have the right tools and the right motivation to build a wide range of new desktop applications, telephone services, and corporate phone systems that integrate voice with the Web, IM, WiFi, and more. Ed Stephenson talks with program cochair Surj Patel about what's emerging in telephony, and what you can expect to learn at O'Reilly's upcoming Emerging Telephony Conference.

<http://www.oreillynet.com/pub/a/etel/2006/01/05/ip-telephony-you-aint-seen-nothin-yet.html>

***MacVoices #521: Getting the Most Out of eBay with Nancy Conner

Didn't get what you wanted for the holidays? Need to get rid of what you did get? Or maybe you just are looking to get a great deal on anything? Nancy Conner, the author of "eBay: The Missing Manual" talks about getting the most out of the online auction service. Tips for both novice and experienced users cover the many types of auctions on eBay, basic and advanced bidding and sales techniques and ways to protect yourself when buying and selling. Want to know how to snipe auctions? What all those eBay ratings mean? Nancy covers all this and more.

<http://www.macvoices.com/archives/2005/521.html>

----- Open Source -----

***Clone Pong, Using Only SDL (and Your Brain)

One of the great things about the games of yore is that they tended to be pretty simple, and as Josh Glover explains, Pong is one of the simplest to implement. In this first article of a three-part series, Josh shows you how to clone Pong all by yourself.

<http://www.linuxdevcenter.com/pub/a/linux/2005/12/15/clone-pong-using-sdl.html>

***Inside NetBSD's CGD

Security-minded laptop users live in fear of theft, not only of their computer, but also of their precious secret data. NetBSD's CGD project is a cryptographic virtual disk that can protect sensitive data while acting like a normal filesystem. Federico Biancuzzi recently interviewed its author, Roland Dowdeswell, on the goals and implementation of the system.

http://www.onlamp.com/pub/a/bsd/2005/12/21/netbsd_cgd.html

----- Mac -----

***The Power of mdfind

In addition to the little blue magnifying glass in the upper-right corner of your desktop, Tiger provides the mdfind and mdls commands for searching. Andy Lester discovered them while working on his updates to "Mac OS X Tiger In A Nutshell." Essentially, they provide the power of Spotlight in the Unix shell. Here's how it works.

<http://www.macdevcenter.com/pub/a/mac/2006/01/04/mdfind.html>

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***Mac Users and the Macs They Use

When you read the articles and weblog posts by prominent Mac users and Mac pundits, do you ever find yourself wondering what kind of computer setup they're using? Giles Turnbull does. He recently contacted a spat of Mac professionals and asked them what they depend on. Here's what they had to say.

<http://www.macdevcenter.com/pub/a/mac/2005/12/28/mac-users-and-the-macs-they-use.html>

Windows/.NET

***Unit Testing in Visual Studio 2005 Team System

Unit testing is one of the tasks that every programmer worth their salt needs to do. Wei-Meng Lee shows you how to use the new Unit Testing feature of Visual Studio 2005 Team System to auto-generate the code needed to test your application.

<http://www.windowsdevcenter.com/pub/a/windows/2006/01/03/unit-testing-in-visual-studio-2005-team-system.html>

***Just-In-Time Data Loading For DataGrids

One of Jesse Liberty's clients has a problem: she has a database with 2 million records and wants to display these records in a data grid, but does not want to load them all into memory from the database. She wants them loaded "just in time." Jesse shows how to use the new DataGridView to neatly solve the problem.

<http://www.windowsdevcenter.com/pub/a/windows/2005/12/20/just-in-time-data-loading-for-datagrids.html>

Java

***Using Global/Distributed Transactions in Java/JDBC with Oracle Real Application Clusters

Maintaining transaction integrity, and rolling back failed steps, becomes more difficult on a cluster. One option is to move some of the load balancing decisions to your code, and account for which cluster nodes you're using. Sachin Shetty shows how this works in the context of an Oracle Real Application Cluster.

<http://www.onjava.com/pub/a/onjava/2005/12/21/global-distributed-transactions-with-oracle-rac.html>

***Maven Project Reporting and Publishing, Part 1

Maven's not just about building; it's about viewing, understanding, and managing your projects. In this first part of a two-part excerpt from "Maven: A Developer's Notebook," authors Vincent Massol and Timothy M. O'Brien introduce Maven's reporting features for issue tracking, dependencies, code style, and more.

http://www.onjava.com/pub/a/onjava/excerpt/mavenadn_ch04/index.html

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Digital Media

***Introduction to Camera Raw

Adobe's Camera Raw is arguably the most popular RAW-format converter available today. In this video, Deke McClelland introduces you to this tool and shows you tips for making image adjustments.

<http://digitalmedia.oreilly.com/2005/12/16/camera-raw.html>

***Andy West: From Dregs to (Software) Riches

Dixie Dregs co-founder Andy West discovered that virtuosity can be a liability in the music world, but a benefit in technology. Now this four-time Grammy nominee programs computers by day and pursues his amazing music at night, drawing the best from both disciplines. Here's how.

<http://digitalmedia.oreilly.com/2006/01/04/andy-west-dixie-dregs-software.html>

MAKE

***Calling all Digital Crafters!

Do you like to knit robots? Do you make jewelry out of old computer parts? Share your crafty projects with us and you may see them on the MAKE: Blog.

<http://www.makezine.com/cs/user/create/link>

***MAKE Forums

MAKE now has forums. They're just getting started, but feel free to go over and check them out.

<http://forums.makezine.com/>

***Meet Your Fellow Makers

Find and post events, exhibits, and more with Maker events listings:

<http://www.makezine.com/events/>

***Try a Sample Project from MAKE:

<http://makezine.com/samples/>

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BOOK NEWS
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Copies of our books are available for your members to review -- send me an email with the delivery address together with the book you would like to review. When the review is published, please send me a copy or the url. I would also appreciate if you could send a copy to

www.amazon.co.uk

Latest books available for review –

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- [Adobe Creative Suite 2 Workflow](#)

Adobe Creative Suite 2 Workflow can help you quickly learn how to take advantage of all that CS2 has to offer. By following its concise explanations and step-by-step exercises, you'll soon learn core skills and techniques that will enable you to create an integrated workflow that will not only save you lots of time, but will also give you more flexibility to move between applications to make necessary tweaks, try out new ideas, and create portable files for review.

- [Analyzing Business Data with Excel](#)

Learn how to apply Excel's advanced data analysis features to solve real-world business problems. This hands-on reference targets specific business situations, then demonstrates how to create spreadsheets for these problem areas. Topics include statistics, pivot tables, workload forecasting, modeling, queuing, data importing, and more. Perfect for professional Excel users working in an office environment.

- [AppleScript: The Definitive Guide](#) (Second Edition)

Fully revised and updated--and with more and better examples than ever--this new edition of the top-selling *AppleScript: The Definitive Guide* shows anyone how to use AppleScript to make your Mac time more efficient and more enjoyable by automating repetitive tasks, customizing applications, and even controlling complex workflows. It's perfect for novices, developers, and everyone in between who wants to know how, where, and why to use AppleScript.

- [C in a Nutshell](#)

Covering the C programming language and C runtime library, this book is destined to be a constant companion in your work. *C in a Nutshell* covers virtually everything you need to program in C. Topics include runtime library calls, common compiler options, and questions of C syntax and usage. Not to be missed by C programmers of all levels.

- [Dreamweaver 8: The Missing Manual](#)

Macromedia's Dreamweaver 8 is a professional web design and development program offering drag-and-drop simplicity, streamlined HTML coding tools, and powerful database integration features. But Dreamweaver 8 is missing one vital component: a printed manual. Enter *Dreamweaver 8: The Missing Manual*, the completely revised fourth edition of this bestselling book by David McFarland. With crystal-clear writing and more than 500 illustrations, it's the ultimate atlas for Dreamweaver 8.

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- [DV Filmmaking: From Start to Finish](#)

Written in an engaging, accessible style, *DV Filmmaking* provides a solid foundation of tremendous value to a beginner, while addressing the fine points of filmmaking with a level of sophistication, detail, and insight that even the most worldly director or educator can appreciate. The author draws upon his years of experience teaching at the college and graduate level, his extensive professional background as a media producer, and his unmistakable love of cinema to create a text that's not only easy to learn from, but also fun to read.

- [Linux Server Hacks, Volume Two](#)

This handy reference offers 100 completely new server management tips and techniques designed to improve your productivity and sharpen your administrative skills. Each hack represents a clever way to accomplish a specific task, saving you countless hours of searching for the right answer. And you don't have to be a system administrator with hundreds of boxes to get something useful from this book as many of the hacks apply equally well to a single system or a home network. Whether they help you recover lost data, collect information from distributed clients, or synchronize administrative environments, the solutions found in *Linux Server Hacks, Volume Two* will simplify your life as a system administrator.

- [Monad](#)

This compact guide offers an exciting tour of the opportunities presented by Monad, the powerful new command shell from Microsoft. Improve productivity by learning how to automate a wide range of existing administrative tasks. Featuring a host of real-world examples, it's the perfect resource for developers, administrators, and power users alike.

- [PCs: The Missing Manual](#)

PCs: The Missing Manual delivers everything you need to know about PCs, both inside and out, and how to keep them running smoothly and working how you want. From hooking everything up to configuring today's must-have digital media devices; from burning CDs and DVDs to setting up blogs and webcams; and from networking several computers to accessing TV and radio online, there's something for everyone.

- [PHP Hacks](#)

This valuable guide offers both practical and fun PHP programming techniques. Learn to develop more robust PHP applications by improving your database design, automating application testing, and employing design patterns in your PHP scripts and classes. Image and application hacks explain how to create custom MP3 broadcasts, integrate with iTunes, and generate PDFs. Designed for all PHP programmers, from newcomers to experts.

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- [Programming MapPoint in .NET](#)

This comprehensive guide shows you how to use MapPoint's interactive mapping abilities to improve your company's bottom line. Learn how to build custom applications for the desktop, web, and mobile devices. Perfect for anyone who wants to render maps, calculate routes, obtain real-time location information, and analyze map data.

- [QuickBooks 2006: The Missing Manual](#)

If your company is ready to minimize paperwork and maximize productivity, control spending and boost sales, QuickBooks 2006 can help you make it happen--but only if you know how to use it. And it doesn't come with a manual. Lucky for you, there's *QuickBooks 2006: The Missing Manual*, the comprehensive, up-to-date guide to saving time and money while beefing up business with QuickBooks.

- [Running Linux](#) (Fifth Edition)

The fifth edition of *Running Linux* is greatly expanded, reflecting the maturity of the operating system and the teeming wealth of software available for it. Hot consumer topics such as audio and video playback applications, groupware functionality, and spam filtering are covered, along with the basics in configuration and management that always made the book popular.

- [Running Mac OS X Tiger](#)

Running Mac OS X Tiger is the ideal resource for power users and system administrators who want to tweak Tiger to run faster, better, or just differently. Easy to follow and intuitively organized, the book helps you understand the inner workings of Mac OS X so you can know how to get the most out of it and become master of your Mac.

- [Skype Hacks](#)

If you've heard about Skype--and who hasn't with all the recent media attention devoted to internet phone service--chances are you've been mighty tempted to try it out. *Skype Hacks* tells you what all the Skype hype is about, explains the basics, and shows you more than 100 clever tips and tricks for tweaking and tuning Skype so you too can enjoy free phone calls and services.

- [SQL Cookbook](#)

This convenient guide is for anyone who wants to take his or her SQL skills to the next level. Packed with over 200 recipes, the *SQL Cookbook* helps you conquer common data query and manipulation problems, including those related to window functions, data warehousing, and string manipulation. Features an easy-to-grasp problem-solution-discussion format.

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- [Understanding Linux Network Internals](#)

A no-nonsense guide to Linux networking, *Understanding Linux Network Internals* offers a clear view of the underlying concepts and teaches you to follow the C code that implements it. Topics include system initialization, network interface card (NIC) device drivers, bridging, routing, ICMP, and more. Numerous diagrams, flowcharts, and examples deliver optimum understandability.

- [Visual Basic 2005 in a Nutshell](#) (Third Edition)

Newly updated, this classic detailed reference to the Visual Basic programming language had been reorganized to cover all the ins and outs of Visual Basic 2005, including new features like Generics, My Namespace, and operators. An alphabetical reference to Visual Basic 2005 statements, procedures, functions, and objects makes sure you follow along. Ideal for developers, programmers, and anyone learning VB as a first language.

- [VoIP Hacks](#)

Interested in saving money, increasing productivity, or just impressing your friends? If so, then *VoIP Hacks* can show you how. This practical guide offers dozens of clever tips, tricks, and techniques for working with VoIP, the cool technology that makes phone service via the Internet possible. Hack your way to the phone service of the future-today!

- [Windows Server 2003 Security Cookbook](#)

This handy problem-solver teaches you how to perform important security tasks in the Windows Server 2003 OS using very specific recipes. Each recipe features a brief description of the problem, a step-by-step solution, and then a discussion of the technology at work. Also features a detailed explanation of Microsoft's scripting support.

- [XSLT Cookbook](#) (Second Edition)

A collection of detailed code recipes that breaks down everyday XSLT problems into manageable chunks. Learn how to transform XML documents into PDF files, SVG files, HTML documents, etc. Other topics include numerical transformation, XPath, date/time conversion, string manipulation, testing and debugging, and complex sorting and linking. Updated to cover XSLT 2.0.

- [Zero Configuration Networking: The Definitive Guide](#)

Offering a unique insider's perspective, *Zero Configuration Networking: The Definitive Guide* takes the mystery out of networking electronic devices, so you can enjoy maximum efficiency at work or home. Covers all networking activities, including the sharing of files, music and photos, and even Instant Messaging. It's the ultimate authority for developers on any platform.

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****Coming Soon

- [Active Directory](#) (Third Edition)
- [C# Cookbook](#) (Second Edition)
- [Dreamweaver 8 Design and Construction](#)
- [Excel Scientific and Engineering Cookbook](#)
- [Google Advertising Tools](#)
- [Google Maps Hacks](#)
- [Information Dashboard Design](#)
- [MAKE Magazine: The First Year](#)
- [PSP Hacks](#)
- [RFID Essentials](#)
- [Visual Basic 2005 in a Nutshell](#) (Third Edition)
- [We the Media](#)

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CONFERENCE NEWS
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***MySQL Users Conference Registration in Open

Join us at the 2006 edition of the MySQL Users Conference, the largest gathering of MySQL developers, users, and DBAs. It is the only event where you will be able to join the core MySQL development team and over 1000 users, open source innovators, and technology partners under one roof.

MySQL Users Conference, April 24-27, 2006 Santa Clara Convention Center, Santa Clara, CA
<http://www.mysqluc.com/>

User Group members who register before March 6, 2006 get a double discount. Use code "mys06dusg" when you register, and receive 15% off the early registration price.

To register for the conference, go to:

<http://www.mysqluc.com/pub/w/45/register.html>

***Register for O'Reilly Emerging Technology Conference

We're five years into the O'Reilly Emerging Technology Conference and the stuff of which it is made shows no sign of abating: bandwidth continues to broaden, storage grows ever larger and cheaper, and content keeps streaming from the firehose. How do we visualize all of this digital data, filter it, remix it, and access it in meaningful ways? The coming technical challenge is not about generating digital content-we have more than enough already. It's time to do something with that data. It's time to build The Attention Economy.

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O'Reilly Emerging Technology Conference, March 6-9, 2006 Manchester Grand Hyatt, San Diego, CA

<http://conferences.oreilly.com/etech/>

User Group members who register before January 16, 2006 get a double discount. Use code "et06dsug" when you register, and receive 20% off the early registration price.

To register for the conference, go to:

<http://conferences.oreillynet.com/pub/w/43/register.html>

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O'REILLY WILL BE THERE!
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***PHP Conference - London

"The PHP London user group (<http://www.phplondon.org/wiki/HomePage>) are pleased to announce that a London conference will happen on 10/02/06 (<http://phpconference.co.uk/>). Speakers and talks include, Harry Fuecks (author of JPspan, talking about AJAX), Pawel Kozlowski (Pico container), Christopher Kunz (PHP Security), Derick Rethans (talking about Ez Components) and Matt Zanstra (object oriented approach at Yahoo).

As well as having interesting technical presentations it will also be a social event as well. We have both a pre-conference event (<http://www.phplondon.org/wiki/Meeting2006February9>) occurring the night before and a post conference event (<http://www.phpconference.co.uk/2006/info/blogathon.html>). Tickets are limited and at present "early-bird tickets" are still available, so book now. Any queries can be sent to 2006@phpconference.co.uk

*** II Conferencia Internacional de Software Libre – Malaga 15-17 February

"Innovation and Freedom" is the theme of the Second Open Source World conference. This is the 2nd part of the conference, part one being held in Merida, Extremadura Oct 25-26. The first conference in 2004 was one of the most successful and all-ranging floss/open-source conferences ever. Further information on <http://www.opensourceworldconference.com/malaga06/es/modules/wiwimod/>

*** Fosdem – Brussels – 25/26 February

The sixth Free and Open source Software Developers' European Meeting is a 2 day event, organized by volunteers, to promote the widespread use of Free and Open Source software. Taking place in the beautiful city of Brussels, Belgium, FOSDEM meetings are recognised as the best Free and Open Source events in Europe. For further information www.fosdem.org.

Important Note: Entrance and attendance to FOSDEM talks and tutorials are free, but donations to help us organizing and keeping the event free are welcome, please see [here](#).

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YOUR BOOK REVIEWS
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*** JUG Padova reviewed – Spring: A Developers Notebook -
<http://www.jugpadova.it/articles/2005/11/26/spring-a-developers-notebook>

*** SNUG reviewed - Pragmatic Version Control Using Subversion -
<http://cs.snug.se/forums/94/ShowPost.aspx>

*** Edinburgh pm reviewed – Time Management for System Administrators -
<http://edinburgh.pm.org/book-reviews/time-management-for-system-administrators.html>