

O'Reilly UK User Group Programme

NEWSLETTER

Issue 02-06

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HIGHLIGHTS

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NEWS FROM O'REILLY AND BEYOND

- Early Access to Cutting-Edge Technology
- What Are Syndication Feeds?
- Hacking Online Applications for Location Awareness
- PHP Easter Egg
- Simplify PHP Development with WASP
- Running Commercial Linux Software on FreeBSD
- Putting Google Video onto Your iPod
- Adding a New Style Preferences Window to Your App, Part 1
- Using the Windows Mobile 5.0 Emulators in Visual Studio 2005
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- Building a Web Community with Bribes
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BOOK NEWS

- Books for review
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CONFERENCE NEWS

YOUR BOOK REVIEWS

YOUR NEWS

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NEWS FROM O'REILLY AND BEYOND

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General News

***Early Access to Cutting-Edge Technology

O'Reilly's Safari Books Online has just announced a new service called Rough Cuts that gives you early access to content on cutting-edge technologies months before it's published. Rough Cuts allows you to purchase work-in-progress manuscripts of selected titles. You'll even have the chance to shape the final product by sending feedback to the author and editors. The beta version just debuted with four works-in-progress covering Ajax, Ruby, and Flickr. For more information, go to:

<<http://www.oreilly.com/roughcuts/>>

Titles now available:

Ajax Hacks: Rough Cuts Version

<<http://www.oreilly.com/catalog/ajaxhks/>>

Flickr Hacks: Rough Cuts Version

<<http://www.oreilly.com/catalog/flickrhks/>>

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Ruby Cookbook: Rough Cuts Version
<<http://www.oreilly.com/catalog/rubyckbk/>>

Ruby on Rails: Up and Running: Rough Cuts Version
<<http://www.oreilly.com/catalog/rubyrails/>>

Rough Cuts FAQ
<<http://www.oreilly.com/roughcuts/faq.csp>>

***What Are Syndication Feeds?

O'Reilly recently commissioned Shelley Powers, a specialist in technology architecture and software development, to create a comprehensive PDF document that would help webmasters manage their incoming and outgoing feeds. Shelley produced nothing short of a must-have reference for online publishers, titled "What Are Syndication Feeds?" You can download it today from the O'Reilly shopping cart.

<<http://www.oreilly.com/catalog/syndicationfeeds/?CMP=ILC-7VG584093978>>

***Hacking Online Applications for Location Awareness

Based on his work developing a stable wireless mesh platform that allows true peer-to-peer multi-hop network connectivity, Chris Ngan discusses some proof-of-concept applications that demonstrate the power of this network infrastructure and the ease with which text/chat, voice, and video applications can be made location-aware.

<<http://www.oreillynet.com/pub/a/etel/2006/01/20/hacking-online-applications-for-location-awareness.html>>

----- Open Source

***PHP Easter Egg

The Easter Bunny has come early. Kevin Yank uncovers a little-known PHP Easter Egg.

<<http://www.sitepoint.com/blogs/2006/01/08/phps-doggie-easter-egg/>>

***Simplify PHP Development with WASP

Where are the all-in-one PHP frameworks that make building well-factored and maintainable applications as easy as building simple sites? Brian Fioca shows how to make a simple database-backed site with WASP in just a few lines of code.

<http://www.onlamp.com/pub/a/php/2006/01/19/wasp_intro.html>

***Running Commercial Linux Software on FreeBSD

One intriguing feature of the BSDs is their ability to run binaries for Linux distributions. This can be very useful for running commercial software. Michael W. Lucas demonstrates how to configure and use the Linux compatibility layer on FreeBSD.

<http://www.onlamp.com/pub/a/bsd/2006/01/12/Big_Scary_Daemons.html>

----- Mac

***Putting Google Video onto Your iPod

There's some pretty interesting stuff on Google Video. In this article, Erica Sadun shows you how to download videos, convert them to an iPod-friendly format, and load them onto your new 5G video iPod.

<<http://www.macdevcenter.com/pub/a/mac/2006/01/24/google-video.html>>

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***Adding a New Style Preferences Window to Your App, Part 1

In this first of two articles, Martin Redington shows you how to add a new style preferences window to your application that behaves in all respects exactly like the Apple preferences windows.

<<http://www.macdevcenter.com/pub/a/mac/2006/01/20/preferences.html>>

Windows/.NET

***Using the Windows Mobile 5.0 Emulators in Visual Studio 2005

Emulators are a must-have for anyone developing mobile applications. To get you started, Wei-Meng Lee shows you how to use the emulator tools that shipped with Windows Mobile 5.0 and Visual Studio 2005.

<<http://www.windowsdevcenter.com/pub/a/windows/2006/01/24/windows-mobile5-emulators-in-visual-studio-2005.html>>

***An Inside Look at IPSec in Vista

IPSec management tools are not particularly intuitive in XP. But things are going to be better in Vista. Mitch Tulloch, author of "Windows Server Hacks," takes a look at IPSec support in Vista, and clues you in on what you can expect.

<<http://www.windowsdevcenter.com/pub/a/windows/2006/01/17/an-inside-look-at-ipsec-in-vista.html>>

Web

***What's Your Link Reputation?

Forget Pagerank: as Gord explains, this measure no longer allows us to accurately or consistently predict how a page will perform in the search results. Here, he unravels the concept of link reputation, explaining why it's important and what it means for your site's ranking.

<<http://www.sitepoint.com/article/whats-your-link-reputation>>

***Building a Web Community with Bribes

Building a community on the Web is one of the hardest things to do. Chris explains some shortcuts that you can take to drastically speed up the process.

<<http://www.sitepoint.com/blogs/2006/01/09/building-a-forum-with-bribes/>>

Java

***Help Choose a Cover Model for the Next Head First book

JavaRanch is hosting a contest to choose a cover model for the next Head First book ("Head First Objects"), due out this Spring. Examine seven wannabe photos, decide which would work best, then craft an essay or poem describing why. Try your luck at winning one of five fabulous prizes, including the chance to have your name appear in the new book. Deadline for entries is January 29th.

<http://saloon.javaranch.com/cgi-bin/ubb/ultimatebb.cgi?ubb=get_topic&f=75&t=000265>

***Using Lucene to Search Java Source Code

Most uses of the Java-based Lucene search engine are for searching typical text documents. But what if you want to search Java code itself? Renuka Sindhgatta argues that this would be a boon for finding reusable code, and shows how to adapt Lucene to parse Java code for maximum searchability.

<<http://www.onjava.com/pub/a/onjava/2006/01/18/using-lucene-to-search-java-source.html>>

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***Spring: Integrating iBATIS

iBATIS is one of the object-relational (OR) frameworks embraced by the Spring framework, and it's an ideal choice for those seeking a middle ground between full-blown OR and hand-written JDBC. In this excerpt from "Spring: A Developer's Notebook," Bruce Tate and Justin Gehtland show how to integrate iBATIS with Spring.

<http://www.onjava.com/pub/a/onjava/excerpt/springadn_ch05/index.html>

----- Podcasts

***O'Reilly's New Podcasting Site

Check out our latest podcasting shows and selections:

"Distributing the Future" hosted by Daniel Steinberg

O'Reilly Media's weekly podcast show features the technology and the people behind what you're using now--and what you'll use next. This half hour program includes interviews and commentary on science, technology, related social issues, and is good fun, to boot.

<<http://www.oreillynet.com/future/>>

"MAKE Audio and Video" hosted by Phil Torrone

Each week MAKE magazine delivers audio and video of amazing Makers, inventions, do-it-yourself projects, and lab tours. Phil also showcases how all kinds of things are made, from wireless microphones to cigar-box guitars.

<http://makezine.com/blog/archive/make_podcast/index.html>

"FOO Casts"--Podcasts from Friends of O'Reilly

FOO Casts feature great audio interviews from O'Reilly's editors, authors, conference presenters, and other friends. Get a whole new perspective by hearing an author explain a concept in a new way, or speak on new tech topics, gadgets, and tips and techniques.

"In Our Ears & Pick of the Week Selections"--Highlights what O'Reilly editors, authors, and readers recommend.

<<http://www.oreillynet.com/podcasts/>>

----- Digital Media

***Connect the Video iPod to TV

Did you know you can use your Video iPod with your TV? Best-selling author Derrick Story details how you can connect the Video iPod using standard cables and share your content on a TV any time you visit with friends and family.

<<http://www.oreillynet.com/pub/a/network/2006/01/16/connect-the-video-ipod-to-tv.html>>

***Jack Herrington Interviews Founder of Fake Science

James Polanco, founder of Fake Science, chats with Jack about his popular radio show and how he started podcasting to cover digital music news, reviews, and to showcase favorite artists. James reveals his gear setup for recording and editing the show.

<<http://www.oreillynet.com/pub/a/network/2006/01/09/jack-herrington-interviews-james-polanco.html>>

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MAKE

***MAKE Contest on Digg

MAKE and Digg.com are testing the delivery of the latest news and top stories from Digg using MAKEbot. On AIM/iChat, just add MAKEbot to your buddy list and then type "subscribe digg 1" or "subscribe diggall 1" to get the latest/top stories from Digg every hour. ("1" is the number of hours, but you can change that. You can also just type digg or diggall at any time). MAKE will randomly pick a user of the MAKEbot and give away a high-speed flash photography kit, T-shirts, a year of MAKE, and our new book, "Makers." So add the MAKEbot and start Digging to win! If you need help with the MAKEbot, just type "help" during your chat.

***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 <<http://www.amazon.co.uk>>

Latest books available for review -

* Active Directory <<http://www.oreilly.com/catalog/actdir3/>> (Third Edition)

Fully updated to cover Active Directory for Windows Server 2003 SP1 and R2, this third edition is full of important updates and corrections. Discover how to design, manage, and maintain a small, medium, or enterprise Active Directory infrastructure. It's perfect for all Active Directory administrators, whether you manage a single server or a global multinational with thousands of servers.

* Dreamweaver 8 Design and Construction <<http://www.oreilly.com/catalog/dreamwvrmx/>>

Whether you're an absolute beginner or you're switching web design programs, Dreamweaver 8 Design and Construction gets you up to speed, quickly and efficiently. With speed as its watchword, Marc Campbell's practical hands-on guide focuses on rapid prototyping techniques for constructing both interactive and static web sites. Clear and thorough, it emphasizes learning by doing, with short, task-oriented chapters that use screen shots, illustrations, and sample layouts to demonstrate theory through design solutions.

* Excel Scientific and Engineering Cookbook <<http://www.oreilly.com/catalog/excelseckbk/>>

This quick, look-up reference is perfect for anyone in the science and engineering community who wants to improve upon their Excel skills. You'll learn how to leverage Excel to perform both routine and complex calculations, and then visualize the results for presentation. Features practical data analysis techniques and real-world examples from a range of scientific disciplines.

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- * Google Advertising Tools <<http://www.oreilly.com/catalog/buildinggoogle/>>
This comprehensive guide takes a close look at advertising on the web-how it works and how Google's advertising programs can turn your site into a money maker. Tasks include delivering image ads precisely targeted to your site, and generating text ads that accompany specific search term results. After reading this book, you'll know Google's AdSense and AdWords services inside and out.
 - * Google Maps Hacks <<http://www.oreilly.com/catalog/googlemapshks/>>
The nearest pizza, the cheapest gas, the best meeting place for a group-Google Maps Hacks shows you creative ways to add to and customize the satellite images and underlying API of Google Maps for applications serendipitous or serious. Written by Schuyler Erle and Rich Gibson (with a foreword by Google Maps tech leads, Jens and Lars Rasmussen), Google Maps Hacks shares dozens of tricks for combining the capabilities of Google's Keyhole map feature with your own datasets, so you can create interactive maps for unlimited personal and commercial applications.
 - * Information Dashboard Design <<http://www.oreilly.com/catalog/infodashboard/>>
Dashboards have become popular in recent years as uniquely powerful tools for communicating important information at a glance. This book will teach you the visual design skills you need to create dashboards that communicate clearly, rapidly, and compellingly. The greatest display technology in the world won't solve this if you fail to use effective visual design. And if a dashboard fails to tell you precisely what you need to know in an instant, you'll never use it, even if it's filled with cute gauges, meters, and traffic lights. Don't let your investment in dashboard technology go to waste.
 - * PSP Hacks <<http://www.oreilly.com/catalog/psphks/>>
PSP Hacks shows you how to make the versatile and powerful new PlayStation Portable (PSP) do more than you ever imagined--and more than Sony ever intended--with 50 innovative hacks, tweaks, tricks, and how-tos for customizing your PSP and taking full advantage of features, capabilities, and functionality far beyond what's listed in the PSP user manual.
 - * RFID Essentials <<http://www.oreilly.com/catalog/rfid/>>
Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) is rapidly changing the way businesses track inventory and assets. From Walmart and Tesco, to the U.S. Department of Defense, early efforts are already showing benefit, but software, integration, and data processing for RFID still present a challenge. With the knowledge you gain in RFID Essentials, you will possess the information and understanding you need to start designing, building, or integrating with RFID systems.
 - * We the Media <<http://www.oreilly.com/catalog/wethemedia/>>
We the Media, nationally acclaimed newspaper columnist and blogger Dan Gillmor shows how anyone can produce the news, using personal blogs, Internet chat groups, email, and a host of other tools. He tells the story of this emerging phenomenon and sheds light on this deep shift in how we make--and consume--the news. Journalism in the 21st century will be fundamentally different from the Big Media oligarchy that prevails today. We the Media casts light on the future of journalism, and invites us all to be part of it.
- ****Coming Soon
- * Adobe InDesign CS2 One-on-One <<http://www.oreilly.com/catalog/adobeindesign2/>>
 - * Baseball Hacks <<http://www.oreilly.com/catalog/baseballhks/>>
 - * C# Cookbook <<http://www.oreilly.com/catalog/csharpckbk2/>> (Second Edition)
 - * Essential Microsoft Operations Manager <<http://www.oreilly.com/catalog/microsoftpmgr/>>
 - * Fixing Access Annoyances <<http://www.oreilly.com/catalog/accessannoy/>>
 - * Fixing PowerPoint Annoyances <<http://www.oreilly.com/catalog/powerpointannoy/>>
 - * Learning C# <<http://www.oreilly.com/catalog/learnsharp2/>>(Second Edition)

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- * Learning Windows Server 2003 <<http://www.oreilly.com/catalog/lwsvr20032/>>(Second Edition)
- * MAKE Magazine: The First Year <<http://www.oreilly.com/catalog/makemagyr1/>>
- * Mind Performance Hacks <<http://www.oreilly.com/catalog/mindperfhks/>>
- * Photoshop Fine Art Effects Cookbook <<http://www.oreilly.com/catalog/fineartfx/>>
- * Repairing and Upgrading Your PC <<http://www.oreilly.com/catalog/repairpc/>>
- * Visual Basic 2005 in a Nutshell <<http://www.oreilly.com/catalog/vb2005ian3/>> (Third Edition)
- * Web Design in a Nutshell <<http://www.oreilly.com/catalog/wdnut3/>>(Third Edition)
- * Web Site Cookbook <<http://www.oreilly.com/catalog/websiteckbk/>>
- * Window Seat <<http://www.oreilly.com/catalog/windowseat/>>

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CONFERENCE NEWS
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***Upcoming 2006 O'Reilly conferences

- O'Reilly Emerging Technology Conference, March 6-9 in San Diego, California
- MySQL Users Conference, April 24-27 in Santa Clara, California--early registration discount ends March 6
- Where 2.0, June 13-14 in San Jose, California--registration opens in February
- O'Reilly Open Source Convention, July 24-28 in Portland, Oregon--Call for Participation ends February 13; registration opens in April
- O'Reilly European Open Source Convention, September 18-21 in Brussels, Belgium--Call for Participation ends March 6; registration opens in May
- Web 2.0, November 7-9 in San Francisco, California

For up to date information on each conference, go to:
<<http://conferences.oreilly.com>>

***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 with code "et06dsug" receive 20% off the conference pricing.

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 <<mailto: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, Extramadura 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 <<http://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 <<http://www.fosdem.org/index/support>>.

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YOUR BOOK REVIEWS
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*** Edinburgh pm reviewed - Learning Perl Objects, References and Modules -
<http://edinburgh.pm.org/book-reviews/learning-perl-objects-references-and-modules.html>
<<http://edinburgh.pm.org/book-reviews/time-management-for-system-administrators.html>>

***Scottish ColdFusion Group reviewed - Head First Design Patterns
<<http://www.scottishcfug.com/go/hfdp-gc/>>