O'Reilly UK User Group Programme

NEWSLETTER

Issue 02-07

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HIGHLIGHTS
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NEWS FROM O'REILLY AND BEYOND
-Craftzine Interviews Amy Sedaris, Author of "I Like You: Hospitality Under the Influence"
-David Pogue (Missing Manual Creator) talks with the Public Libraries Association in the "Podcast from Hell"
-New Course Featuring AJAX--O'Reilly/University of Illinois Certificate Series
-Why I Stopped Coding and Why I'd Start Again
-Greylisting with PF
-Compare, Select, and Rate
-Free Pass for Photoshop World Tech Expo
-Digital Media Insider Podcast 6: Desktop Music in Japan
-Macworld 2007: 1984 All Over Again
-My Favorite Macworld Product: Indigo
-The Case for Freeware and Open Source Windows Tools
-The Five Best and Worst Things About Vista
-Word 2007 Missing Manual Screencast: Word's Ribbon
-Build a .NET App for Google Checkout
-Discovering a Java Application's Security Requirements
-Review/Preview: 2006 and 2007 in Java
-SD West--Free Expo Pass

BOOK NEWS
- Books for review
- Coming soon
CONFERENCE NEWS
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YOUR BOOK REVIEWS


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O'REILLYGMT http://www.oreillygmt.eu/
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O'ReillyGMT is a new blog from O'Reilly. We plan to bring you the low-down on tech culture from Iceland, Russia, South Africa and every place in between, from grass roots coding in solitary rooms, through the hopes and dreams of start-ups, via the pioneering work done by governments, charities and direct action groups, to the sizeable contributions of the major corporations that grace this territory.

Our main line of reportage will be technology, but we're keen to dive into ecology, business, media, the arts, academia whenever we learn something we'd like to pass on. But we want this to be a two-way conversation. Please let us know what you're working on, comment on the stuff we write about, tell us what we're doing right and what we're doing wrong. We built this site to reflect what's going on: you know better than us, so please, join us! Contact us – oreillygmt@oreilly.co.uk


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NEWS FROM O'REILLY AND BEYOND
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General News

***Craftzine Interviews Amy Sedaris, Author of "I Like You: Hospitality Under the Influence"
Opening up Amy Sedaris's new book is like going into another world: the world of Amy. For anyone who's a fan of her work, from the Comedy Central TV show and movie, "Strangers with Candy," to her many comedic scene-stealing guest appearances, you know and love Amy's world.

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<http://www.craftzine.com/blog/archive/2007/01/interview_with_amy_sedaris_aut.html>

***David Pogue (Missing Manual Series Creator) talks with the Public Libraries Association in the "Podcast from Hell"
Interviewer Andrea Mercado says "This was, hands down, the most interesting, humorous, and problem-laden interview I've done thus far, part funny ha-ha, part funny uh-oh. You too can see why David calls this the "podcast from hell."
<http://plablog.org/2007/01/interview-with-david-pogue.html>

***New Course Featuring AJAX--O'Reilly/University of Illinois Certificate Series
O'Reilly Learning is proud to announce their new Client-Side Web Programming Certificate Series. These courses provide a complete understanding of front-end web development, from HTML and CSS, to JavaScript DOM and AJAX.
<http://oreillylearning.com/courses/clientsidecert.php3>

And don't forget, user group members receive a special 30% discount! To redeem, use Promotion Code "ORALL1," good for a 30% discount, in Step #3 of the enrollment process. Each course comes with a free O'Reilly book and a 7-day money-back guarantee. Register online:
<https://oreillylearning.com/enroll/>

Other O'Reilly Learning Courses include:
-Linux/Unix System Administration
-Web Programming
-Open Source Programming
-.NET Programming

Open Source

***Why I Stopped Coding and Why I'd Start Again
What happens when programming stops being fun? What do you do when juggling dependencies and worrying about installation issues takes all of the joy out of writing code for other people? You can stop coding... or you can try to address the underlying problems. Brian McConnell postulates an enhancement of the Python language to make programming as fun as it was in the BASIC-in-ROM minicomputer days.
<http://www.onlamp.com/pub/a/python/2007/01/18/why-i-stopped-coding.html>

***Greylisting With PF
Greylisting--delaying mail delivery briefly per the SMTP RFCs--is an effective way to reduce the amount of incoming spam. While many greylisting solutions require customization of your SMTP server, OpenBSD's PF can do it too. Dan Langille shows how to use the powerful packet filter to identify and pass legitimate mail, delay and divert potential spammers, and throw in some OS fingerprinting to ward off certain zombie clients.
<http://www.onlamp.com/pub/a/bsd/2007/01/18/greylisting-with-pf.html>

Digital Media

***Compare, Select, and Rate
Aperture's powerful sorting tools enable photographers to cull hundreds of images quickly. This podcast features Derrick Story and Scott Bourne explaining the compare, select, and rating tools, including stacks, during a recent workshop at Macworld San Francisco.
<http://digitalmedia.oreilly.com/2007/01/19/inside_aperture_podcast-7.html>

***Free Pass for Photoshop World Tech Expo
The Photoshop World Tech Expo is open to the public one day only on Thursday, April 5 from 10am to 5PM at the Hynes Convention Center in Boston. If you are interested in mingling with the biggest names in the industry and seeing the latest in Photoshop-related technology, you can sign up for a free Tech

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Expo pass (valued at $20 per person) beginning in late March.
<http://www.photoshopworld.com/freepass.html>

***Digital Media Insider Podcast 6: Desktop Music in Japan
From Tokyo, David Battino interviews DTM Magazine's Daigo Yokota on the state of Japanese music technology, tests Mixmeister's slick podcasting software, and explores two cool songs on the DTM DVD.
<http://digitalmedia.oreilly.com/2007/01/08/digital-media-insider-podcast-6-desktop-music-in-japan.html>

Mac

***Macworld 2007: 1984 All Over Again
Daniel Steinberg reports on the Macworld keynote. From the big iPhone announcement and demo to the startling lack of Mac and Leopard news, Daniel shares his impressions and provides detailed analysis of the year's largest Apple event.
<http://www.macdevcenter.com/pub/a/mac/2007/01/12/macworld-keynote-coverage.html>

***My Favorite Macworld Product: Indigo
Each year Adam Goldstein likes to search out the cool new products at Macworld. This year Adam takes a look at the powerful Indigo home automation system.
<http://www.macdevcenter.com/pub/a/mac/2007/01/18/my-favorite-macworld-product-indigo.html>

Microsoft/.NET

***The Case for Freeware and Open Source Windows Tools
In "Windows Developer Power Tools," James Avery and Jim Holmes tell you about scores of incredibly useful, freely available tools for Windows developers. In this article, they tell you about some of their favorite ones.
<http://www.windowsdevcenter.com/pub/a/windows/2007/01/19/the-case-for-freeware-and-open-source-windows-tools.html>

***The Five Best and Worst Things About Vista
After five years, Windows Vista is finally here. What's good and what's bad about it? Preston Gralla, author of "Windows Vista in a Nutshell," tells you five things you'll love and five things you'll hate about Vista.
<http://www.windowsdevcenter.com/pub/a/windows/2006/12/19/the-five-best-and-worst-things-about-vista.html>

For more info on Vista, go to:
<http://vista.oreilly.com/>

***Word 2007 Missing Manual Screencast: Word's Ribbon
Get a closer look at how the Ribbon is Word 2007 works with author Chris Grover ("Word 2007: The Missing Manual").
<http://examples.oreilly.com/9780596527396/ch00/scast_Word07_ribbon.htm>

For more examples from this title, go to:
<http://www.missingmanuals.com/cds/9780596527396/>

****Build a .NET App for Google Checkout

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Google Checkout, Google's online payment system, integrates with websites such as Buy.com. In this article, Google's Martin Omander details Google Checkout's plumbing and shows you how to build a .NET application to integrate with it.
<http://www.windowsdevcenter.com/pub/a/windows/2007/01/09/build-a-net-app-for-google-checkout.html>

Java

***Discovering a Java Application's Security Requirements
Java security manager policy files are powerful and flexible, but rather grueling and error-prone to write by hand. In this article Mark Petrovic employs a novel approach: a development-time SecurityManager that logs your applications' calls and builds a suitable policy file.
<http://www.onjava.com/pub/a/onjava/2007/01/03/discovering-java-security-requirements.html>

***Review/Preview: 2006 and 2007 in Java
2006 will be remembered as the year that Sun open-sourced Java under the GPL, that EJB 3.0 finally shipped, and that Google surprised everyone with its Google Web Toolkit. But how will history record the results of these events? For the 2006 year-ender, ONJava editor Chris Adamson looks
at the year's events through the lens of how they may play out in 2007.
<http://www.onjava.com/pub/a/onjava/2006/12/20/2006-onjava-yearender.html>

Web

***SD West--Free Expo Pass
Sign up for a free expo pass that grants you access to the expo floor plus admission to the opening floor party, technical sessions, the google party, the developer bowl, awards night and all keynotes.
<https://www.cmpevents.com/SDw7/a.asp?option=B>

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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 –

- Access 2007 for Starters: The Missing Manual

  This fast-paced book teaches you the basics of Access 2007 so you can start using the program right away. You'll learn how to design databases, maintain them, search for valuable nuggets of information, and build attractive forms for quick-and-easy data entry. The new Access is radically different from previous versions, but with this book, you'll breeze through the new interface and its timesaving features in no time.

- Ajax on Rails

  Learn to build dynamic, interactive web applications using the two most important approaches to web development today: Ajax and the phenomenally efficient Ruby on Rails platform. This book teaches you how to use both Ajax and Rails to quickly build high-performance, scalable applications without

being overwhelmed with thousands of lines of JavaScript code. More than just recipes, you'll also get a thorough, low-level understanding of what's happening under the hood.

- Everyday Scripting with Ruby (*Pragmatic Bookshelf*)

Everyday Scripting with Ruby is divided into four parts. In the first, you'll learn the basics of the Ruby scripting language. In the second, you'll see how to create scripts in a steady, controlled way using test-driven design. The third part is about finding, understanding, and using the work of others--and about preparing your scripts for others to use. The fourth part, more advanced, is about saving more time by using application frameworks.

- Excel 2007 for Starters: The Missing Manual

Fast-paced and easy to use, this concise book teaches you the basics of Excel 2007 so you can start using the program right away. You'll quickly learn to build spreadsheets, add and format information, print reports, create charts and graphics, and use basic formulas and functions. The new Excel is radically different, but with this book, you'll breeze through the new features in no time.

- Google Web Toolkit for Ajax – PDF

The Google Web Toolkit (GWT) is a nifty framework that Java programmers can use to create Ajax applications. The GWT allows you to create an Ajax application in your favorite IDE, such as IntelliJ IDEA or Eclipse, using paradigms and mechanisms similar to programming a Java Swing application. After you code the application in Java, the GWT's tools generate the JavaScript code the application needs.

- Introduction to Neogeography – PDF

Neogeography combines the complex techniques of cartography and GIS and places them within reach of users and developers.

This Short Cut introduces you to the growing number of tools, frameworks, and resources available that make it easy to create maps and share the locations of your interests and history.

Learn what existing and emerging standards such as GeoRSS, KML, and Microformats mean; how to add dynamic maps and locations to your web site; how to pinpoint the locations of your online visitors; how to create genealogical maps and Google Earth animations of your family's ancestry; or how to geotag and share your travel photographs.

- PowerPoint 2007 for Starters: The Missing Manual

Fast-paced and easy to read, this concise book teaches you the basics of PowerPoint 2007 so you can start using the program right away. You'll quickly learn to create, save, set up, run, and print a basic bullets-and-background slideshow, as well as add pictures, sound, video, and a lot more. The new PowerPoint is radically different, but with this book you can breeze through the new features in no time.

- Scanning Negatives and Slides (*Rocky Nook*)

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A large number of contemporary photographers have either moved into digital photography exclusively or use both analog and digital media in their work. In either case, there is most likely an archive of slides and negatives which cannot be directly integrated into the new digital workflow, nor can it be archived in a digital format. More and more, photographers are trying to bridge this gap using high-performance film scanners.

How to achieve the best possible digital image from a negative or slide, and how to build a workflow to make this process efficient, repeatable, and reliable, is the subject of this book. The author uses Nikon's filmscanners throughout, but all steps can easily be followed using a different scanner. The most common software tools for scanning (SilverFast, VueScan, NikonScan) are not only covered extensively in the book, but are also provided on a CD along with other useful tools for image editing, as well as numerous sample scans.

- [Software Testing Foundations, Second Edition](#) (*Rocky Nook*)

This book covers the entry level, the "Foundations Level" and teaches the most important methods of software testing. It is designed for self-study and provides the necessary knowledge to pass the "Certified Tester (Foundations Level)" exam as defined by the ISTQB.

- [Using Samba, Third Edition](#)

This book is the comprehensive guide to Samba administration, officially adopted by the Samba Team. Wondering how to integrate Samba's authentication with that of a Windows domain? How to get Samba to serve Microsoft Dfs shares? How to share files on Mac OS X? These and a dozen other issues of interest to system administrators are covered. A whole chapter is dedicated to troubleshooting!

- [Using XForms with Mozilla](#) – PDF

The XForms technology gives you many advantages over ordinary XHTML forms. The XForms technology separates your form's data and presentation and submits your data as XML. XForms-aware applications can validate your data as you type it and can also submit your data to different servers and even store it in files. This tutorial shows you how to use Mozilla to start working with XForms.

- [Windows Vista for Starters: The Missing Manual](#)

Fast-paced and easy to use, this concise book teaches you the basics of Windows Vista so you can start using the operating system right away. Written by "New York Times" columnist and Missing Manuals creator David Pogue, the book covers Vista quickly and clearly so you can navigate the desktop, the Media Center, Internet Explorer 7, and much more.

- [Word 2007 for Starters: The Missing Manual](#)

Fast-paced and easy to read, this concise guide teaches you the basics of Word 2007 so you can start using the program right away. You'll learn how to create documents, format and edit text, share the results, and go beyond basic documents to handle graphics, create page layouts, and use forms and tables. The new Word is radically different, but with this book, you'll master the new features in no time.

****Coming Soon

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- [40 Digital Photography Techniques, 3rd Edition](#) (*Young Jin*)
- [40 Digital Photo Retouching Techniques with Photoshop Elements](#) (*Young Jin*)
- [Essential Electronics for Software Folk](#) (*Pragmatic Bookshelf*)
- [Fonts & Encodings](#)
- [Google Web Toolkit for Ajax](#) - PDF
- [Introduction to Neogeography](#) – PDF
- [Rails for Java Developers](#) (*Pragmatic Bookshelf*)

- [TextMate](#) (*Pragmatic Bookshelf*)
- [Using XForms with Mozilla](#) – PDF
- [Windows Vista Pocket Reference](#)

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Conference News
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***New 40% Discount for the 2007 Emerging Telephony Conference
Explore the strategies for taming disruption and exploit opportunities being created by web telephony innovations. February 27 to March 1, 2007 in Burlingame, CA. <http://conferences.oreilly.com/etel/>

Use code "etel07fnf40" when you register, and receive 40% off the early registration price.

To register for the conference, go to: <http://conferences.oreillynet.com/pub/w/50/register.html>

***Call for Participation for O'Reilly Open Source Convention
The next O'Reilly Open Source Convention, taking place July 23-27, 2007 in Portland, Oregon, will bring over 2500 open source professionals together to network, learn, and share the latest knowledge around open source software. Share your favorite techniques, proven successes, and newly-developed technology by leading sessions and tutorials at OSCON 2007. Visit the Proposals page for more details and to submit your ideas. Proposals are due no later than February 5, 2007. Registration opens in April. <http://conferences.oreilly.com/oscon/>

***Call for Participation for O'Reilly Energy Innovation Conference
Concern for the future of energy has reached critical mass. To explore solutions to the world's significant energy challenges, O'Reilly has launched its inaugural Energy Innovation Conference. We invite technologists and strategists, CTOs and chief scientists, inventors, researchers, programmers, hackers, policy makers, business developers, and entrepreneurs to lead sessions and workshops at the 2007 Energy Innovation Conference. The event is happening August 22-24, 2007 in San Francisco, California. Proposals must be submitted by March 7, 2007. For additional conference details and to submit a proposal, visit: <http://www.energyinnovation.com>

***Register for ETech 2007
Last year ETech sold out to a standing room only audience, so don't delay, lock in your registration today. Arthur C. Clarke said it best: "Any sufficiently advanced technology is indistinguishable from magic."
Join us March 26-29, 2007 in San Diego as we make magic at ETech.
<http://conferences.oreilly.com/etech/>

Use code "et07usrg" when you register, and receive 15% off the early registration price.

To register for the conference, go to: <http://conferences.oreillynet.com/pub/w/52/register.html>

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***Register for Web 2.0 Expo
The Web 2.0 Expo is the first event specifically designed to help teach Web 2.0 techniques and best practices to people in the trenches directly involved in the design, development, engineering, marketing, and business of second-generation internet technology. Register now and save up to $200 on registration fees. Web 2.0 Expo happens April 15-18 at Moscone West in San Francisco, CA.
<http://www.web2expo.com/>

For complete conference information, go to: <http://conferences.oreilly.com/>

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UPCOMING EVENTS (ORM = O'Reilly will be there)
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ORM ***PHP Conference UK 2007, 23rd February, London
PHP London user group are staging the UK's second dedicated PHP conference. Speakers include
Kevlin Henney and
Rasmus Lerdorf.
http://phpconference.co.uk/

ORM ***FOSDEM, 24/25 February, Brussels
The seventh Free and Open source Software Developers' European Meeting is a 2 days 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."
http://www.fosdem.org/2007/

***DevWeek, Feb 26-March 2, London
DevWeek is the UK's leading technical conference for software developers, database professionals and IT architects, and features expert speakers on a wide range of topics, including .NET 3.0, Windows Vista, Visual Studio 2005, ASP.NET AJAX, SQL Server 2005, C# 3.0, Agile Development, ASP.NET 2.0, .NET debugging, Visual Studio Team System, and Service-Oriented Architecture.
http://www.devweek.com/

ORM ***UKUUG Spring 2007 Conference, 19-21 March 2007 in Manchester
UKUUG's annual Large Installation Systems Administration (LISA) conference will be held in Manchester from Monday 19th to Wednesday 21st March 2007.
This conference is a must-attend event for system and network administrators. As well as the technical talks, the conference provides a friendly environment for members to meet, learn, and enjoy lively debate on a host of subjects.
http://www.ukuug.org/events/spring2007/

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YOUR BOOK REVIEWS
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□   The Egyptian Java User Group reviewed – Java Generics and Collections –
http://www.egjug.org/java_generics_and_collections_book_review

□   Michelle Beltram reviewed – JavaScript
- http://www.varlogarthas.net/blog/2007/01/h3_javascript_the_definitive_g.html

□   CompSoc reviewed – Agile Web Development with Rails –
http://compsoc.dur.ac.uk/reviews/agile-web-development.html

□   Java Hellenic User Group reviewed – Hard Core Java –
http://www.jhug.gr/phpnuke/PHP-Nuke-6.5/html//modules.php?name=Forums&file=viewtopic&p=5229#5229

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That's all for now.

Josette