

# O'Reilly UK User Group Programme

## NEWSLETTER

Issue 05-06

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### HIGHLIGHTS

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- The Software of Space Exploration
- Mac FTP: A Guided Tour
- Macintosh Home Monitoring
- Programming Word from .NET
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- Scaling Games Up
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#### YOUR NEWS

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#### NEWS FROM O'REILLY AND BEYOND

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#### General News

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##### \*\*\*O'Reilly Staff Picks

Now you can see what Tim O'Reilly, Phil Torrone, chromatic, and more consider thier favorites.

<http://admin.oreillynet.com/pub/q/staffpicks>

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#### Open Source

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##### \*\*\*Building a FreeBSD Build System

Keeping a single BSD system up to date is relatively easy. Keeping a whole business full of servers fresh with patches and new applications and updates is more work--unless you take advantage of the ports system. Bjorn Nelson walks through the design and implementation of a build system usable to push fresh binaries to as many servers as you have.

<http://www.onlamp.com/pub/a/bsd/2006/04/13/freebsd-build-system.html>

##### \*\*\*The Software of Space Exploration.

<http://www.onlamp.com/pub/a/onlamp/2006/03/30/software-of-space-exploration.html>

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#### Mac

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##### \*\*\*Mac FTP: A Guided Tour

(S)FTP has a special place in the hearts of web builders and developers, and is still one of the most practical methods of getting files from one place to another in a secure manner. In this article, Giles Turnbull surveys six FTP clients for the Mac platform and shows you the major characteristics of each.

<http://www.macdevcenter.com/pub/a/mac/2006/04/13/ftp.html>

##### \*\*\*Macintosh Home Monitoring

Want to learn a few simple home automation techniques to have your Mac send you a message when your mail is delivered, your kids get home, or your dog uses the pet door to go into the backyard? Gordon Meyer shows you how.

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

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#### Windows/.NET

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##### \*\*\*Programming Word from .NET

Using .NET with Word can be a potent combination. Jesse Liberty shows you how to take advantage of Word's formatting features and add the power of .NET's programmability.

<http://www.oreillynet.com/pub/a/windows/2006/04/18/programming-word-from-net.html>

##### \*\*\*An Overview of UAC in Windows Vista

Vista's User Account Control represents a big step forward for system security. But it's not that easy to understand. Mitch Tulloch shows you how it works, and offers tips for making it better.

<http://www.oreillynet.com/pub/a/windows/2006/04/04/uac-in-windows-vista.html>

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#### Java

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##### \*\*\*Implementing Mutual Exclusion for AJAX.

<http://www.onjava.com/pub/a/onjava/2006/04/05/ajax-mutual-exclusion.html>

##### \*\*\*Supporting Branch Office Environments

Supporting the IT needs of branch offices that have limited or no IT resources can be a challenge. What to do? Mitch Tulloch, author of "Windows Server Hacks," interviews Richard Harrison, CISSP, principal technologist for infrastructure and security at Content Master, who offers his expertise on how to support branch offices using Windows.

<http://www.oreillynet.com/pub/a/windows/2006/04/11/supporting-branch-office-environments.html>

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#### Podcasts

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##### \*\*\*Scaling Games Up

This week we're talking about games. Big games. Amy Jo Kim talks about taking the lessons from game playing and applying them to your applications. Jane McGonigal talks about scaling up intimate two player games so that thousands of people can thumb wrestle. (DTF 04-18-2006: 27 minutes 49 seconds)

<http://www.oreillynet.com/pub/a/network/2006/04/18/distributing-the-future.html>

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\*\*\*Patterns for Communication, Moderation, and Information Processing

We're finding patterns everywhere. Clay Shirky talks about patterns of moderation strategy, Jon Udell makes recommendations for those of us seeking attention, and George Dyson helps us understand the present by looking back at Von Neumann. (DTF 04-03-2006: 31 minutes 05 seconds)

<http://www.oreillynet.com/pub/a/network/2006/04/03/distributing-the-future.html>

For more podcasts, go to:

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

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Digital Media  
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\*\*\*Aperture 1.1--Apple Listens

With Aperture's new features, bug fixes, and universal compatibility with PowerMacs and Intel Macs, it's now a serious contender for top digital photo software. Scott Bourne reviews Version 1.1.

<http://www.macdevcenter.com/pub/a/mac/2006/04/18/aperture.html>

\*\*\*Digital "Not Hot" at Sundance 2006

Digital cinema is no longer new or novel, but it is clearly and inevitably, the wave of the future. Susan Boyer attended this year's Sundance film festival and gives us a glimpse at how the cinematic landscape is changing.

<http://digitalmedia.oreilly.com/2006/04/05/digital-not-hot-at-sundance-2006.html>

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MAKE  
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\*\*\*MAKE Video Podcast

The making of a Warbot and death of a RAZR phone.

[http://www.makezine.com/blog/archive/2006/04/make\\_video\\_podcast\\_the\\_making.html](http://www.makezine.com/blog/archive/2006/04/make_video_podcast_the_making.html)

\*\*\*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 --

- [Flash 8 Cookbook](#)

This practical, nuts-and-bolts toolkit puts theory into practice with ready-made answers to common Flash development questions. It's the perfect resource for Flash developers, as well as designers who are ready to start doing development work. Using O'Reilly's popular Problem/Solution/Discussion Cookbook format, this book offers 280 standalone recipes that include a brief explanation of how and why the solution works, so you can adapt it to similar situations you may run across in the future.

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- [JUNOS Cookbook](#)

*JUNOS Cookbook* is the first comprehensive book about JUNOS software and it provides over 200 time-saving step-by-step techniques including discussions about the processes and alternative ways to perform the same task. It's been tested and tech-reviewed by field engineers who know how to take JUNOS out for a spin and it's applicable to the entire line of M-, T-, and J-series routers. *JUNOS Cookbook* will not only pay for itself the first few times you use it, it will make your network easier to manage and update.

- [Linux Annoyances for Geeks](#)

GNU/Linux is an immensely popular operating system that is both extremely stable and reliable. But it can also induce minor headaches at the most inopportune times, if you're not fully up to speed with its capabilities. In keeping with the spirit of the Annoyances series, the book adopts a sympathetic tone that will quickly win you over. Rather than blaming you for possessing limited Linux savvy, *Linux Annoyances for Geeks* takes you along for a fun-filled ride as you master the system together.

- [Pragmatic Ajax](#)

It used to be that you had to make a hard choice: the ease of deployment of a web page, or the interactive features of a rich desktop application. Now you can have it all. Ajax redefines the user experience for web applications. Using existing standards, your application can provide a compelling user interface--delivered plug-in free--using modern web browsers. This book shows you how to work the Ajax magic easily, exploring both the fundamental technologies and the emerging frameworks that make it easy. **It's not just Ajax, it's Pragmatic Ajax.**

- [SQL Pocket Guide](#)

Now available in an updated second edition, our very popular *SQL Pocket Guide* is a major help to programmers, database administrators, and everyone who uses SQL in their day-to-day work. The *SQL Pocket Guide* is a concise reference to frequently used SQL statements and commonly used SQL functions. Not just an endless collection of syntax diagrams, this portable guide addresses the language's complexity head on and leads by example. The information in this edition has been updated to reflect the latest versions of the most commonly used SQL variants.

\*\*\*\*Coming Soon

- [Building Scalable Web Sites](#)
- [DNS and BIND, Fifth Edition](#)
- [Enterprise JavaBeans 3.0, Fifth Edition](#)
- [Enterprise SOAervices Architecture](#)
- [HTML and XHTML Pocket Reference, Third Edition](#)
- [iMovie 6 & iDVD: The Missing Manual](#)
- [IPv6 Essentials, Second Edition](#)
- [Java I/O, Second Edition](#)
- [Learning PHP and MySQL](#)
- [Learning SQL on SQL Server 2005](#)
- [MCSE Core Required Exams in a Nutshell, Third Edition](#)
- [Programming Excel with VBA and .NET](#)
- [Programming PHP Learning UML 2.0](#)
- [Statistics Hacks](#)

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Conference News  
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\*\*\*OSCON, July 24-28--Portland,OR

OSCON, the O'Reilly Open Source Convention, is still where open source rubber meets the road. OSCON happens July 24-28, 2006 in open source hotspot Portland, Oregon, and registration has just opened. Hundreds of sessions and tutorials. Thousands of open source mavericks, brainiacs, hackers, activists, scientists, and their admirers, some in business-casual disguise. Read all about it.

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

User Group members who register before June 5, 2006 get a double discount. Use code "os06dsug" when you register, and receive 15% off the early registration price.

To register for the conference, go to:

<http://conferences.oreillynet.com/pub/w/46/register.html>

\*\*\*Early Registration ending soon for the Where 2.0 Conference,  
June 13-14--San Jose, CA

The Where 2.0 Conference brings together the people, projects, and issues leading the charge into the location-based technology frontier. Join the developers, innovators, and business people behind the new era of geospatial technology as they come together--because everything happens somewhere, and it's all happening here at Where 2.0.

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

User Group members who register before April 24, 2006 get a double discount. Use code "whr06dsug" when you register, and receive 15% off the early registration price.

To register for the conference, go to:

<http://conferences.oreillynet.com/pub/w/47/register.html>

\*\*\*MySQL Users Conference, April 24-27--Santa Clara, CA

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

<http://www.mysqluc.com/>

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>

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YOUR EVENTS  
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\*\*\*The London Perl Mongers' JavaScript night - <http://london.pm.org/ljs-200605/>

25 May, London

Now that Javascript rules the web (2.0) and AJAX isn't just for cleaning the loo, we've decided it's about time to have a whole evening dedicated to the little language that could, hence ...

The first ever London Javascript evening!

Presenting on the night (so far) are ...

Simon Willison: Javascript taste testing

Paul Hammond: Javascript idioms

... along with a set of lightning talks that are so exciting they are still in closed beta!

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O'REILLY WILL BE THERE!  
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SANE 2006 - <http://www.sane.nl/sane2006/>

15 / 05 / 2006 at 09:00 Aula Congresscentre, Delft, The Netherlands

The SANE 2006 conference offers 3 days of training, followed by a 2-day conference program filled with the latest developments in system administration, network engineering, security and open source software, and practical approaches to the puzzles and problems you wrestle with.

Xtech - <http://xtech06.usefulinc.com/>

16 / 05 / 2006 at 09:00 Amsterdam, The Netherlands

XTech 2006 is the premier European conference for developers, information designers and managers working with web and standards-based technologies. XTech brings together the worlds of web development, open source, semantic web and web standards.

The theme for 2006, "Building Web 2.0", recognises the key place of standards-based and open technology in enabling the next generation of web applications. Practitioners and leaders from all disciplines are invited to participate in presenting and discussing the technology and design issues behind the changing web.

Guadec 2006 – <http://guadec.org/GUADEC2006>

June 24-30<sup>th</sup>, Vilanova i la Geltru, Catalonia, Spain

The 7th annual GNOME User and Developer European Conference (GUADEC) will bring developers, GNOME Foundation leaders, individuals, businesses and governments, as well as Free Software and Open Source software users together in Vilanova i la Geltrú (Catalonia - Spain).

WebTech 2006 - <http://wtconferences.com/2006/index.php>

June 30<sup>th</sup> – July 1<sup>st</sup> – Sofia, Bulgaria

The conference will focus on new technologies in web programming, open source and everything that stands for IT (Internet Technologies). During the two days event visitors will be acquainted with many aspects of these technologies and will be introduced to the future plans for development. Main themes are going to be programming languages as PHP, Perl, Python, the .Net technology and many more which you will be able to see in the schedule section

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YOUR BOOK REVIEWS  
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\*\*\*Catux reviewed –

Ajax Hacks

Head Rush Ajax

<http://catux.org/wiki/index.php/Libres>

\*\*\*Durham Computer Society reviewed –

MySQL Stored Procedure Programming - <http://compsoc.dur.ac.uk/~dk/storedprocedure.html>

\*\*\*Udruženje Linux Korisnika BiH – ULK reviewed

PHP Hacks - <http://www.linux.org.ba/osvrti/index.php?l=21>

SQL Cookbook - <http://www.linux.org.ba/osvrti/index.php?l=22>

\*\*\*Scottish ColdFusion User Group reviewed –

Head First HTML with CSS and XHTML - <http://www.scottishcfug.com/go/hfhtml-nb/>