

O'Reilly UK User Group Programme

NEWSLETTER

Issue 11-05

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- Making Your RSS Feed Look Pretty in a Browser
- ESR: "We Don't Need the GPL Anymore"
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- What Developers Want
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NEWS FROM O'REILLY AND BEYOND

General News

***Top Ten Questions People Ask About Switching to Internet Telephones

"Talk Is Cheap" author James Gaskin blames internet telephone vendors and the press for dropping the consumer information ball when it comes to the basic questions they have about switching to internet or broadband telephones. If you're contemplating a switch, James has answers to ten most frequently asked questions about dropping your traditional telephone provider for broadband. <<http://www.oreillynet.com/pub/a/network/2005/06/27/talkischeap.html>>

***Hacking Maps

You've got the address, but where is that in GPS terms? In these two excerpts from "Mapping Hacks," learn how to geocode (adding geographic coordinates, such as latitude and longitude, to other information) a US street address, as well as a whole database of addresses using the geocoder.us web services. <http://www.oreillynet.com/pub/a/network/excerpt/MapHacks_chap7/index.html>

***Making Your RSS Feed Look Pretty in a Browser

As more and more non-techie websites offer syndication feeds, a growing number of non-technical readers are clicking on the links and filling their screens with confusing XML. But syndication content doesn't have to look like geeky markup or malformed text in your readers' browsers. You can make it look quite pretty and give clues about what the feed is actually for. Ben Hammersley, author of "Developing Feeds with RSS and Atom," shows you how. <<http://www.oreillynet.com/pub/a/network/2005/07/01/rss.html>>

Open Source

***ESR: "We Don't Need the GPL Anymore"

During a recent Brazilian conference on free and open source software, hacker, writer, and speaker Eric Raymond stated that open source would see more rapid success if the GPL didn't make people nervous. Federico Biancuzzi recently interviewed ESR to gain more context for the statement and to explore these views more fully. <http://www.onlamp.com/pub/a/onlamp/2005/06/30/esr_interview.html>

***Problems in OpenSSH, Sudo, and Java

Noel Davis looks at problems in OpenSSH, Sudo, Sun Java, Blackdown Java, tcpdump, cpio, JBOSS, Adobe Reader and Acrobat, gedit, Gaim, and Trac.

<http://www.linuxdevcenter.com/pub/a/linux/2005/06/24/security_alerts.html>

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***What Developers Want

Regardless of the language and platform you choose for development, you likely share some goals with your fellow developers: to be productive, to use good tools, and to keep your tools and processes out of your way while you create good software. Murugan Pal, CTO of SpikeSource, explains ten attributes he thinks developers want. <<http://www.onlamp.com/pub/a/onlamp/2005/06/23/whatdevswant.html>>

Mac

***Music Gadgets

Derrick Story wants to listen to music in a different way everyday. Here are the gadgets he's been testing to "shuffle" his setup for music playback. A few of these are real keepers.

<<http://www.macdevcenter.com/pub/a/mac/2005/06/24/gadgets.html>>

***Going to the Movies (and More) in iTunes

Have you played with the video functionality in iTunes? If not, J.D Biersdorfer presents a few things that Steve Jobs has mentioned--and a few he hasn't. J.D. is the author of "iPod and iTunes: The Missing Manual, 3rd Edition." <<http://www.macdevcenter.com/pub/a/mac/2005/06/24/itunes.html>>

***Tweaking Tiger Mail

The release of Mail 2.0 was largely overlooked amid all the fuss about Tiger's system-level features, but a number of people have made public complaints about changes made to the user interface. Mail's performance has improved, but the apparent willingness of Apple's designers to create an entirely new kind of toolbar icon just for use in Mail has irritated some. Giles Turnbull shows you how to bring happiness back to Mail. <<http://www.macdevcenter.com/pub/a/mac/2005/06/21/mail.html>>

Windows/.NET

***Is This Security Alert Really from Microsoft?

An excellent way to get information about Windows updates is via email with Microsoft Technical Security Notification Services. But how do you know what's real and what's a spoof? Mitch Tulloch, author of "Windows Server Hacks," shows you.

<<http://www.windowsdevcenter.com/pub/a/windows/2005/07/05/scripting.html>>

***Atlas: Microsoft's Answer to Ajax

Microsoft is putting together a toolkit for Web Developers who want to use AJAX (Asynchronous JavaScript and XML). <<http://www.sitepoint.com/blog-post-view.php?id=276224>>

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***Generics in .NET 2.0

Generics in .NET 2.0 permeates with potential. But what are generics? Are they for you? Should you use them in your apps? Venkat Subramaniam, author of ".NET Gotchas," answers these questions and take a closer look at using generics, and their capabilities and limitations.

<<http://www.ondotnet.com/pub/a/dotnet/2005/06/20/generics.html>>

***Getting Your Bluetooth Headset to Work in XP

With Bluetooth support built into SP2, getting a Bluetooth headset to work should be a breeze. But it ain't necessarily so. Wei-Meng Lee shows you how to do it.

<<http://www.windowsdevcenter.com/pub/a/windows/2005/07/05/bluetooth.html>>

Java

***Java City: The Java Enterprise Ecosystem

Should we worry about promoting a healthy Java community? Or is everything just fine in Java City? Jim Farley asks you to weigh in on these questions, and others, in the Talkbacks. He plans a follow up article summarizing what you have to say. Your comments may help to shape content in Jim's upcoming book, "Java Enterprise in a Nutshell, 3rd Edition," due out in the fall.

<<http://www.onjava.com/pub/a/onjava/2005/06/22/javacity.html>>

***Getting Started with Maven

In this excerpt from "Maven: A Developer's Notebook," authors Vincent Massol and Timothy M. O'Brien show you how to install and start working with Maven, the do-it-all Java project builder/manager.

<http://www.onjava.com/pub/a/onjava/excerpt/mavenadn_ch01/index.html>

Digital Media

***Seven Steps to Noise-Free Digital Audio

Virtually all audio recordings will contain some amount of noise. Learn what causes it, how to avoid it, and how to remove it from your files. Based on "Digital Audio Essentials" by Bruce and Marty Fries.

<<http://digitalmedia.oreilly.com/2005/06/22/noise.html>>

***The Ultimate Portable Studio

If you're a musician, producer, engineer, or songwriter who wants to set up a professional, laptop-based recording studio, here's all the information you need.

<<http://digitalmedia.oreilly.com/2005/06/29/portable1.html>>

Part Two:

<<http://digitalmedia.oreilly.com/2005/07/06/portable2.html>>

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MAKE

***MAKE: Audio--Interview with John Maushammer

John is a talented hardware tinkerer who's leading the way to reusing disposable digital cameras, and now the new CVS disposable digital video camcorder. Tune into hear how he does it.

<http://www.makezine.com/blog/archive/make_podcast/>

Don't forget to add the MAKE feed to iTunes 4.9. Click this link:

<<http://phobos.apple.com/WebObjects/MZStore.woa/wa/viewPodcast?id=73330671>>

and then click SUBSCRIBE).

***MAKE: Blog--Podcasts on Audible

Audible announced that they're supporting the podcast way of delivering some of their content. You can add a URL (RSS feed) to a podcasting application and the stuff you buy on Audible will go to your computer/music player just like all the free podcasts you subscribe to. So here's how it all works, plus the good, the bad, and the how-to for some other things.

<http://www.makezine.com/blog/archive/2005/06/audible_does_po.html>

***For more information on MAKE, go to: <<http://www.makezine.com/>>

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BOOK NEWS
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****Latest books available for review

* Advanced Perl Programming <<http://www.oreilly.com/catalog/advperl2/>> (Second Edition)

O'Reilly's most high-level Perl tutorial to date, Advanced Perl Programming, Second Edition teaches you all the complex techniques for production-ready Perl programs. This completely updated guide clearly explains concepts such as introspection, overriding built-ins, extending Perl's object-oriented model, and testing your code for greater stability. Whatever your current level of Perl expertise, this book will help you push your skills to the next level and become a more accomplished programmer.

* Astronomy Hacks <<http://www.oreilly.com/catalog/astronomyhks/>>

Do you relish viewing and identifying celestial objects? Whether you're a first timer or an advanced hobbyist, this book makes a brilliant cosmic companion. This handy field guide covers the basics of observing, and what you need to know about tweaking, tuning, adjusting, and tricking out a telescope. It includes priceless tips and tools for using a Dobsonian Telescope that you can build in your garage inexpensively.

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* eBay Hacks <<http://www.oreilly.com/catalog/ebayhks2/>> (Second Edition)

eBay Hacks, 2nd Edition has been completely revised and updated with 30 brand-new hacks, plus tons of expanded, deepened, or otherwise completely rewritten hacks. Learn clever tricks and shortcuts, such as advanced searching techniques, sniping tools, selling strategies, photography tips, and even research techniques for PowerSellers. This bestseller supplies you with the tools you need to master eBay, whether as a buyer or seller, casual surfer or serious collector, novice or seasoned expert.

* Exchange Server Cookbook <<http://www.oreilly.com/catalog/exchangeckbk/>>

This comprehensive how-to guide covers the most common tasks for both Exchange 2000 and Exchange Server 2003, everything from installation and maintenance to configuration and optimization. In addition, you'll find solutions to many uncommon tasks, advanced procedures, and ways to write scripts for Exchange management and deployment tasks. What's more, you'll get answers quickly because chapters are laid out by recipe with cross-references to related solutions.

* Home Networking: The Missing Manual <<http://www.oreilly.com/catalog/homenetmm/>>

Using clear language, straightforward explanations, and a dash of humor, Home Networking: The Missing Manual shows you how to do everything you need to set up a home network. This book helps you understand the difference between what you need to know to create and use your home network and what's best left to those looking for a career as a system administrator. In Home Networking: The Missing Manual you'll find everything you need to get your network running-and nothing more.

* JBoss: A Developer's Notebook <<http://www.oreilly.com/catalog/jbossadn/>>

This Developers Notebook takes you on a complete tour of JBoss in a very unique way: rather than long discussions, you will find code--lots of code. In fact, the book is a collection of hands-on labs that take you through the critical JBoss features step-by-step. Don't just read about JBoss, learn it through direct practical application.

* Maven: A Developer's Notebook <<http://www.oreilly.com/catalog/mavenadn/>>

If you're a Java programmer, this book will arm you with all the critical information you need to get up to speed on Maven. It forces you to get hands-on experience by working through a series of poignant exercises that speak to you instead of at you. In the end, you'll find yourself spending less time working on your project's build system and more time working on your project's code.

* Mac OS X: The Missing Manual, Tiger Edition <<http://www.oreilly.com/catalog/macxtigermm/>>

As soon as Apple comes out with another version of Mac OS X, David Pogue hits the streets with another impeccable Missing Manual to cover it. This new edition explores the latest features in Mac OS X Tiger, such as Spotlight, iChat AV and Automator. Ideal for every user, this guide has something new on every page, along with David Pogue's celebrated wit and expertise.

* Project 2003 Personal Trainer <<http://www.oreilly.com/catalog/projectpt/>>

Entertaining, clear, and informative, this book begins with the fundamentals of planning and managing a project with Microsoft Project 2003, and then includes sections on working with task lists, updating a project, tracking progress, creating reports, and more. This fully illustrated Personal Trainer features dozens of time-saving, task-oriented lessons, includes detailed diagrams, and comes with an interactive CD tutorial to guide your learning.

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* SharePoint Office Pocket Guide <<http://www.oreilly.com/catalog/sharepointpg/>>

With this handy reference as your guide, you can reap all the benefits of SharePoint. It shows you, in plain language, how to construct websites where individuals from all over can capture and share ideas. Learn how to upload documents, edit content, send alerts, track work items, add new team members, and much more.

* Swing Hacks <<http://www.oreilly.com/catalog/swinghks/>>

Swing Hacks helps Java developers move beyond the basics of Swing, the graphical user interface (GUI) standard since Java 2. The unique Hacks format provides short advanced tricks that you can instantly apply to increase your competency with interface-building tools. Example hacks include how to filter lists, power-up trees and tables, and add drag-and-drop support.

* Switching to VoIP <<http://www.oreilly.com/catalog/switchingvoip/>>

Based on real-world experience, this handy solutions manual addresses the most common VoIP migration challenges. Find out how to build your own VoIP system, install it, and begin making calls--so you can start saving today. Ideal for IT managers, network engineers, and system administrators.

* UML 2.0 in a Nutshell <<http://www.oreilly.com/catalog/umlnut2/>>

This comprehensive guide has been crafted to help IT professionals read, create, and understand system artifacts expressed using UML, and its fully revised to cover UML 2.0. It not only provides a quick-reference to all UML 2.0 diagram types, it also explains key concepts in a way that appeals to readers already familiar with UML or object-oriented programming concepts. Also includes an example-rich tutorial for those new to the system.

* Web Mapping Illustrated <<http://www.oreilly.com/catalog/webmapping/>>

This clear and concise book shows you how to create maps (even interactive maps) with open source tools, including MapServer, OpenEV, GDAL/OGR, and PostGIS. It also explains how to find, collect, understand, use, and share mapping data, both over the traditional web and using OGC-standard services like WFS and WMS.

* Word Annoyances <<http://www.oreilly.com/catalog/wordannoyances/>>

Word Annoyances offers to the point (and often opinionated) solutions to your most vexing editing, formatting, printing, faxing, and scanning problems. It covers everything from installation and templates to tables, columns, and graphics. It also provides a gentle introduction to the power of macros so you can slay your annoyances by the truckload. The fixes will work with most versions of Word, including Word 2000, Word 2002 (also known as Word XP), and Word 2003.

****Coming Soon

* Adobe Photoshop CS2 One-on-One <<http://www.oreilly.com/catalog/photos2/>>

* Car PC Hacks <<http://www.oreilly.com/catalog/carpchks/>>

* Computer Privacy Annoyances <<http://www.oreilly.com/catalog/privacyannoy/>>

* Learning Perl <<http://www.oreilly.com/catalog/learnperl4/>> (Fourth Edition)

* Nokia Smartphone Hacks <<http://www.oreilly.com/catalog/nokiasmarthks/>>

* PC Pest Control <<http://www.oreilly.com/catalog/pcpestcontrol/>>

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- * Perl Best Practices <<http://www.oreilly.com/catalog/perlbp/>>
- * Perl Testing: A Developer's Notebook <<http://www.oreilly.com/catalog/perltestingadn/>>
- * Programming .NET Components <<http://www.oreilly.com/catalog/pnetcomp2/>> (Second Edition)
- * Using Moodle <<http://www.oreilly.com/catalog/moodle/>>

CONFERENCE NEWS

***Register for the O'Reilly Open Source Convention, Portland, OR--August 1-5

OSCON 2005 explores three deep trends affecting open source: the commoditization of software, network-enabled collaboration, and software customizability. Join us at this essential gathering of open source leaders and practitioners of every persuasion to exchange ideas and push the boundaries of vital open source technologies. This year, we introduce the Open Source Business Review, along with a host of other exciting presentations and events.

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

Use code "os05grpusr" when you register, and receive 15% off the registration price.

To register for the conference, go to: <http://conferences.oreillynet.com/cs/os2005/create/ord_os05>

YOUR BOOK REVIEWS

*** My mistake, in last Newsletter I gave you the wrong url for The Scottish Developers review of Don't Click on the blue e! You can find the review on

<http://www.scottishdevelopers.com/modules/wfsection/article.php?PHPSESSID=0ccc73ecdb20dbe85e2bc3a1780e303d&com_mode=flat&com_order=1&articleid=21>

***Udruzenje Linux Korisnika, FBiH - ULK reviewed - Linux Network Administrator's Guide -

<<http://www.linux.org.ba/osvrti/index.php?l=3>>

Python Cookbook - <<http://www.linux.org.ba/osvrti/index.php?l=8>>

*** Scottish ColdFusion User Group reviewed - Essential ActionScript 2.0 -

<http://www.scottishcfug.com/go/as2-sp/>>

*** London pm reviewed - Essential System Administration Pocket Reference -

<http://london.pm.org/reviews/essential_sysadmin_pocket_ref.html>

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YOUR NEWS and more

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***OpenTech 2005, London, 23 July - <<http://www.ukuug.org/events/opentech2005/>>

From the UKUUG and NTK, sponsored by backstage.bbc.co.uk, Open Tech 2005 is an informal, low cost, one-day conference about technologies that anyone can have a go at, from "Open Source"-style ways of working to repurposing everyday electronics hardware. Taking place on 23rd July, 2005, in Hammersmith, London the line up includes:

- The official launch of the backstage.bbc.co.uk developer network, opening up BBC content for you to play with
- Ted Nelson, inventor of hypertext
- Danny O'Brien, co-editor NTK, co-author: Life Hacks. Talking about "Living in Public"

We're also hoping to have some tables available for groups and projects to have an hour or two where people interested in what they do can come and have a chat. If you're interested in this, contact opentech@ukuug.org <<mailto:opentech@ukuug.org>> saying which project you represent, what it does. Booking for attending the event will open on or before the 1st July. Cost of entry will be 5 pounds.

***Annual UKUUG Linux Technical Conference - Thursday 4th August - Sunday 7th August 2005, Swansea - <<http://www.ukuug.org/events/linux2005/>>

A wide cross-section of the Linux community will gather in Swansea, Wales for the annual UKUUG Linux Technical Conference. It's a great way to broaden your knowledge and keep up-to-date with what's happening in the world of linux. This low-cost event is for anyone with a serious interest in linux including systems administrators, linux professionals, developers and enthusiasts from companies and linux user groups throughout the UK and beyond.

***The HP User Group - Seminars: Further information from admin@hpug.org <<mailto:admin@hpug.org>>

"Visualisation - Getting the Whole Picture" - 21st July - Birmingham

"Making and Breaking OpenVMS Clusters" - 15th September - Warrington

"Unified Messaging" - 29th September - London

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