

Saturday, January 31, 2004

Orkut - it's just part of the Buzz

Google doesn't need Orkut. For marketable demographics, Google needs a killer-app/business model with demographics built-in and Orkut isn't it. When you have all eyes on your every move, every little thing you do is magnified. Orkut is a keen and simple example of this. Is Orkut a killer application? Email is a killer-app, as are instant email apps AOL IM, Yahoo Messenger, and MSN Messenger. Each counts tens of millions of registrations. Talk to any media buyer, and they will tell you the registered-user counts are highly inflated and discountable due to a) churn of the users, b) users with phantom accounts, c) users that open accounts and never do anything with them beyond the initial-use surge. But after all these discounts you STILL have tens of millions of users that volunteered 'some' level of demographics. These media buys worth doing because \$50K-\$500K a month is being bought. Orkut seems to make sense as another AdWords channel but that's about it. I would heavily discount any of the social networking applications from having mass market penetration capabilities. Believing they do is delusional and smacks of a Silicon Valley 'build it and they will come' mindset. Orkut.com states Orkut is an "online meeting place where people can socialize, make new acquaintances and find others...". Online socializing is terribly inefficient, which is why I believe the mass market will continue to use the social platform of choice: Shoes toe to toe.

Posted by viavr in Internet at 22:10

Google's Advertising Revamp One Month Old

Google's advertising offerings are now one-month into the official soft-launch of their revamped Advertising Sales product and service matrix. Prior to January 1, 2004, an advertiser spending \$5,000 per month would warrant a Google Account Representative. After January 1, advertising accounts are assigned a Google Rep only if they spend \$10,000 per month. ("Full service for large advertisers" at <http://www.google.com/ads/>). The ad placement on the page is now in full swing. Prior to January 1, 2004, large advertisers contracted with Google to secure 'Premier' positioning at the top of the results. These contracts were generally annual in nature, and assured the advertiser the top advertising slots in a browser-wide width. These premier slots are now open to all AdWords customers. Adwords buyers prior to January 1, 2004, secured space in the column to the right of the search results. After January 1, 2004, AdWords buyers now rise to the browser-wide slots when their PPC price puts their ad on top of the AdWords results for that search result page.

Posted by viavr in Internet at 10:28

Thursday, January 29, 2004

McGreevy - Quite the Patriot Also

Over at infozo.info, it seems there's a call to action over the good New Jersey Governor's death penalty position. As the publisher of half-staff news, we thought it'd be nice if you thanked him at the same time for honoring our servicemen and women in the Middel East theater of combat. Governor McGreevey, along with a handful of other state Governors, make use of their rights to order flying the flag at half-staff, and more Governors should do so.

Posted by viavr in ReDnEcK at 15:43

Playboy v Netscape - Settled - Back to the Library

Playboy and Netscape have settled their differences, it's been widely reported. I think a certain party didn't want (legal) precedents set. While poking around in others' stuff on the subject, I ran repeatedly into librarians voices, and in particular the American Library Association and their Privacy Related Page. Thanks to the redhead librarian at infozo.info for the ALA link. This and other similar instances have made me realize that the library community is getting quite 'out there' on any number of issues, from the Patriot Act, to censorship issues. Kudo's to them for taking stands.

Posted by viavr in Internet at 15:30

Gov. Schwarzenegger Honors Slain Hemet Soldier

Governor Schwarzenegger Releases Statement on Death of Hemet Soldier Governor Schwarzenegger released the following statement today regarding the death of Army Spc. Jason K. Chappell of Hemet, CA: "Maria and I express our deepest sympathy to the family of Jason Chappell. Jason lost his life while protecting the lives of all Americans. His memory will not be forgotten." Spc. Chappell died while supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom. He was killed when a vehicle-based improvised explosive device detonated in Khalidiyah, Iraq on Jan. 24. Two other soldiers died in the explosion. The soldiers were assigned to Company B, 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry, Fort Hood, TX. The incident is under investigation. In honor of Spc. Chappell, Capitol flags will be flown at half-staff.

Posted by viavr in Half-staff News at 07:27

Tuesday, January 27, 2004

91101 Requests Extension Deep into Election Year

National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States - There have been a lot of discussion regarding this Commission's chartered reporting date, with the White House publicly declaring they would oppose further time extensions. STATEMENT BY THE FAMILY STEERING COMMITTEE FOR THE 9/11 INDEPENDENT COMMISSION REGARDING THE NEED FOR AN EXTENSION With little more than four months until May 27th, we feel that the Commission must request an extension from Congress regardless of whether the extension deadline is prior to or after the election. Our reasons are as follows: The scaling back of the number and scope of public hearings. During the first year of the Commission's investigation, the Commission repeatedly promised that substantive, hard-hitting, investigative hearings with testimony from high-ranking officials would commence in January 2004. According to a recent Washington Post article and certain Commissioner's own admissions, these promised hearings are now being curtailed and/or cancelled due to time constraints. The discovery of new information of probative value in need of further investigation by the Commission. Recently, new information with regard to 9/11 has been revealed. (See Newsweek, Mike Isikoff; See N.Y. Observer, Gail Sheehy) According to media accounts, staff operations at the Commission are "frenzied" in their rush to complete their work by the May 27th deadline. As a result, certain specific, relevant information with regard to 9/11 is being "turned away" because of the Commission's need to focus on only broad issues. (See N.Y. Observer, comment by unnamed Commissioner) The need for a Classified Final Report. The Commission is currently preparing a non-classified Final Report to be due out on May 27, 2004. The Commission, thereafter plans to release certain "supplemental classified monoliths." While this controlled release of information may please certain intelligence agency officials, the FSC is opposed to it. The FSC suggests the Commission issue a fully classified Final Report that would then be de-classified through the use of visible redactions. The FSC would recommend the Commission look towards the Joint Inquiry's Final Report as their model. The preparation of a classified Final Report requires more time and preparation by both Commissioners and Staff. The FSC has spoken to 8 out of 10 Commissioners. All eight Commissioners are in favor of an extension for the Commission. Moreover, Congressional support for an extension is also apparent. Senator John McCain, a co-sponsor of the original legislation that created the Independent Commission has stated, "They know they have plenty of people who would support them and force votes. They've got to have the guts to formally request it. So far, they haven't shown that." January 20, 2004 Governor Thomas H. Kean Chairman Hon. Lee H. Hamilton Vice Chairman National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States 301 7th Street, S.W., Suite 5125 Washington, DC 20407 Dear Chairman Kean and Vice Chairman Hamilton, We write you today to formally request a meeting with the Commissioners and senior Commission staff to discuss the progress of the Commission to date. We respectfully suggest that the meeting occur next week, either preceding or following the public hearings on January 26th and 27th. With little more than four months until May 27th, we feel that the Commission does not have adequate time to fulfill its mandate. An article in yesterday's Washington Post said that the Commission "has already decided to scale back the number and scope of hearings that it will hold for the public." The article goes on to characterize the frenzied nature of staff operations in a rush to complete work by the May 27th deadline. When President Bush signed into law the legislation that created the Commission, his expectation was that it would hold public hearings, in no small part as a way to restore confidence in a government that was made to look weak and inadequate by the events of 9/11. Respectfully, we question whether the hearings to date have had that desired effect. Additionally, Family Steering Committee cooperation has been predicated on Commissioners' promises to hold meaningful and substantive hearings in the future. While we have no doubt that these assurances were made in good faith, we are concerned that circumstances have forced the Commission to re-evaluate this position. It should also go without saying that anything less than a cogent and comprehensive final report will be wholly unacceptable to the American people in general and the families of the 9/11 victims in particular. Yet articles in various newspapers - together with anecdotal information - lead the Family Steering Committee to believe that this is the only possible outcome absent an extension. We want to express our strong commitment to supporting an extension if the staff and the Commissioners feel that extra time is warranted, regardless of whether the report comes out prior to, or after, the election. Again we are asking that we all rise above politics and work towards the most complete report. Thank you very much for your consideration of this request. Should you have any questions regarding the Family Steering Committee's availability during these days, please call Bill Harvey at (917) 648-6102. As time is of the essence, we will follow up with Commission staff later today. Sincerely, The Family Steering Committee for the 9/11 Independent Commission Carol Ashley Kristen Breitweiser Patty Casazza Beverly Eckert Mary Fetchet Monica Gabrielle Bill Harvey Mindy Kleinberg Carie Lemack Sally Regenhard Lorie Van Auken Robin Weiner

Posted by viavr in American Flag at 19:55

No to Net Voting pt. 2

Blog Export: Flag Blog, <http://www.fivestarflags.com/vox/>

Shanness writes regarding the use by Diebold of the DMCA in their lobby to further digital voting platforms.

Posted by viavr in Internet at 18:41

Monday, January 26, 2004

Monterey, California Councilwoman Ruth Vreeland Dies

The city of Monterey, California will lower all flags to half-staff in honor of Ruth M. Vreeland. Vreeland, 68, died in a car accident. Vreeland served on the City Council for over 20 years. Profession: Teacher (retired), substitute teacher, Monterey Peninsula Unified School District Elected positions: Monterey City Council (four-year term); 1983, 1986, 1990, 1994, 1998 and 2002 Appointed positions: Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments (director); League of California Cities board of directors, Quota International; Women in Municipal Government; Monterey Bay Sanctuary Advisory Committee, alternate; Overall Economic Development Committee of Monterey County; Institute for Local Self-Government; 20th District Parents/Teachers Association; Monterey Peninsula Concert Association, past president; Children's Home Society, Winnie the Pooh Chapter, past president; Volunteers in Action, past board member; Monterey Bay Task Force, past member; Friends Outside of the Monterey County, advisory board member. Memberships: Monterey Vista Homeowners Association; Community of Caring; League of Women Voters; American Association of University Women; California Teachers Association; Monterey Bay Teachers Association; Responsible Hospitality; California Elected Women's Association for Education and Research; Monterey Main Street Program; National Organization of Women; Old Monterey Preservation Society; Sierra Club; ACLU; State Theater Preservation Group; Monterey Civic Club; Monterey History and Art Association; American Association for Retired Persons; California Retired Teachers' Association; Unitarian Church. Awards: WHO (We Honor Ours), California Teachers Association; Community Service, Volunteers in Action; Outstanding Achievement, Sierra Club; Outstanding Woman in Politics, Planned Parenthood; Outstanding Teacher, Monterey Rotary; Outstanding Service, California Democratic Party; Recognition for Exceptional Dedication, Old Monterey Business Association; 20-Year Service Award, Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments; Golden Rule Award, J.C. Penney; Community Volunteer, Monterey Civic Club; Wharf Rat of the Year 1995, Fisherman's Wharf

Posted by viavr in Half-staff News at 13:34

Friday, January 23, 2004

No to Net Voting

Election Voting on the web has serious flaws according to US security experts. Click here for the pdf: Security Analysis of SERVE Their executive summary states: This report is a review and critique of computer and communication security issues in the SERVE voting system (Secure Electronic Registration and Voting Experiment), an Internet-based voting system being built for the U.S. Department of Defense's FVAP (Federal Voting Assistance Program). This report is a review and critique of computer and communication security issues in the SERVE voting system (Secure Electronic Registration and Voting Experiment), an Internet-based voting system being built for the U.S. Department of Defense's FVAP (Federal Voting Assistance Program). The program's web site is <http://www.serveusa.gov/>. While the system is called an experiment, it is going to be used to count real votes in the upcoming general elections. The authors are members of SPRG (the Security Peer Review Group), a panel of experts in computerized election security that was assembled by FVAP to help evaluate SERVE. Our task was to identify potential vulnerabilities the system might have to various kinds of cyber-attack, to evaluate the degrees of risk they represent to the integrity of an election, and to make recommendations about how to mitigate or eliminate those risks. The SERVE system is planned for deployment in the 2004 primary and general elections, and will allow the eligible voters first to register to vote in their home districts, and then to vote, entirely electronically via the Internet, from anywhere in the world. Besides being restricted to overseas voters and military personnel, SERVE is currently limited to people who vote in one of 50 counties in the seven states (Arkansas, Florida, Hawaii, North Carolina, South Carolina, Utah, and Washington) that are participating. The program is expected to handle up to 100,000 votes over the course of the year, including both the primaries and the general election. (By comparison, approximately 100 million votes were cast in the 2000 general election.) The eventual goal of SERVE is to support the entire population of eligible overseas citizens plus military and dependents. This population is estimated to number about 6 million, so the 2004 SERVE deployment must be judged as a prototype for a very large possible future system. Our conclusions are summarized as follows: DRE (direct recording electronic) voting systems have been widely criticized elsewhere for various deficiencies and security vulnerabilities: that their software is totally closed and proprietary; that the software undergoes insufficient scrutiny during qualification and certification; that they are especially vulnerable to various forms of insider (programmer) attacks; and that DREs have no voter-verified audit trails (paper or otherwise) that could largely circumvent these problems and improve voter confidence. All of these criticisms, which we endorse, apply directly to SERVE as well. But in addition, because SERVE is an Internet- and PC-based system, it has numerous other fundamental security problems that leave it vulnerable to a variety of well-known cyber attacks (insider attacks, denial of service attacks, spoofing, automated vote buying, viral attacks on voter PCs, etc.), any one of which could be catastrophic. Such attacks could occur on a large scale, and could be launched by anyone from a disaffected lone individual to a well-financed enemy agency outside the reach of U.S. law. These attacks could result in large-scale, selective voter disenfranchisement, and/or privacy violation, and/or vote buying and selling, and/or vote switching even to the extent of reversing the outcome of many elections at once, including the presidential election. With care in the design, some of the attacks could succeed and yet go completely undetected. Even if detected and neutralized, such attacks could have a devastating effect on public confidence in elections. It is impossible to estimate the probability of a successful cyber-attack (or multiple successful attacks) on any one election. But we show that the attacks we are most concerned about are quite easy to perpetrate. In some cases there are kits readily available on the Internet that could be modified or used directly for attacking an election. And we must consider the obvious fact that a U.S. general election offers one of the most tempting targets for cyber-attack in the history of the Internet, whether the attacker's motive is overtly political or simply self-aggrandizement. The vulnerabilities we describe cannot be fixed by design changes or bug fixes to SERVE. These vulnerabilities are fundamental in the architecture of the Internet and of the PC hardware and software that is ubiquitous today. They cannot all be eliminated for the foreseeable future without some unforeseen radical breakthrough. It is quite possible that they will not be eliminated without a wholesale redesign and replacement of much of the hardware and software security systems that are part of, or connected to, today's Internet. We have examined numerous variations on SERVE in an attempt to recommend an alternative Internet-based voting system that might deliver somewhat less voter convenience in exchange for fewer or milder security vulnerabilities. However, all such variations suffer from the same kinds of fundamental vulnerabilities that SERVE does; regrettably, we cannot recommend any of them. We do suggest a kiosk architecture as a starting point for designing an alternative voting system with similar aims to SERVE, but which does not rely on the Internet or on unsecured PC software (Appendix C). The SERVE system might appear to work flawlessly in 2004, with no successful attacks detected. It is as unfortunate as it is inevitable that a seemingly successful voting experiment in a U.S. presidential election involving seven states would be viewed by most people as strong evidence that SERVE is a reliable, robust, and secure voting system. Such an outcome would encourage expansion of the program by FVAP in future elections, or the marketing of the same voting system by vendors to jurisdictions all over the United States, and other countries as well. However, the fact that no successful attack is detected does not mean that

none occurred. Many attacks, especially if cleverly hidden, would be extremely difficult to detect, even in cases when they change the outcome of a major election. Furthermore, the lack of a successful attack in 2004 does not mean that successful attacks would be less likely to happen in the future; quite the contrary, future attacks would be more likely, both because there is more time to prepare the attack, and because expanded use of SERVE or similar systems would make the prize more valuable. In other words, a "successful" trial of SERVE in 2004 is the top of a slippery slope toward even more vulnerable systems in the future. (The existence of SERVE has already been cited as justification for Internet voting in the Michigan Democratic caucuses.) Like the proponents of SERVE, we believe that there should be better support for voting for our military overseas. Still, we regret that we are forced to conclude that the best course is not to field the SERVE system at all. Because the danger of successful, large-scale attacks is so great, we reluctantly recommend shutting down the development of SERVE immediately and not attempting anything like it in the future until both the Internet and the world's home computer infrastructure have been fundamentally redesigned, or some other unforeseen security breakthroughs appear. We want to make clear that in recommending that SERVE be shut down, we mean no criticism of the FVAP, or of Accenture, or any of its personnel or subcontractors. They have been completely aware all along of the security problems we describe here, and we have been impressed with the engineering sophistication and skill they have devoted to attempts to ameliorate or eliminate them. We do not believe that a differently constituted project could do any better job than the current team. The real barrier to success is not a lack of vision, skill, resources, or dedication; it is the fact that, given the current Internet and PC security technology, and the goal of a secure, all-electronic remote voting system, the FVAP has taken on an essentially impossible task. There really is no good way to build such a voting system without a radical change in overall architecture of the Internet and the PC, or some unforeseen security breakthrough. The SERVE project is thus too far ahead of its time, and should wait until there is a much improved security infrastructure to build upon.

Posted by viavr in Internet at 05:26

Oxymoron of the Day

Rick Ross over at cultnews.com writes about the 'banned in Salt Lake' label: A gay ex-Mormon made the film Latter Days. Huh?

Posted by viavr in ReDnEcK at 05:02

Blog Export: Flag Blog, <http://www.fivestarflags.com/vox/>

Wednesday, January 21, 2004

91101 purported to be Iran - Al Qaeda JV

The Command Post is reporting on a surprise disclosure in the German trial of accused terrorist Mzoudi

Posted by viavr in American Flag at 19:53

Platform Evolution

Penner recently joined the s9y team. Can't wait to see the new user administration functions. As it is, we've been adding users to by way of myadmin -just get the hash right and it works fine. That isn't for everybody, though. It would be REALLY cool if the team would thrash the table structure to allow multiple blogs to exist in the same database, without creating more tables hmmm waitasec - mebbe you don't have to... brbWell that didn't quite work - missing a key field. I tried setting Serendipity bloga to blogb' 's tables in the database. It'd be a nice feature, since 'everyone' wants their own blog space - having multiple blogs write to the same set of tables. I envision the installation process into the user directory to be pretty much as it is now. At the configuration screens, admin would define the table prefix; if this newest installation was writing to an existing set of tables, the those posts, archives, authors, etc would need to have a 'blogID'. Hmmm. users to blogs table, blogID field introduced into existing table structure, and oh yeah, the dominos. ---->All this would probably demand a single admin 'su', at the database configuration panel, so normal users couldn't change their table definitions.

Posted by viavr in Internet at 16:31

Offbeat Internet Demographics Bust Dean

Howard Dean's recent calamity in the Iowa was the result of mis-reading and mismanaging web demographics. Gene Koprowski writes for UPI:CHICAGO, Jan. 21 (UPI) -- Howard Dean won a virtual primary online last summer, but the maverick politician did not fare so well in Monday's real-world Iowa caucuses. Pundits and online technology consultants say that was because the demographics of the Internet are quite different than those of the electorate at large: younger, more affluent, more liberal and more motivated by new technology. Thus, certain kinds of candidates perform exceptionally well online, while others simply do not. "The kinds of candidates who do well online are a Bill Bradley, a Howard Dean, or a John McCain," Michael Lux, a former Clinton White House domestic policy aide, now a political consultant in Washington D.C., told United Press International. "They draw a constituency that is not blow-dried, that is not totally mainstream. The whole Internet culture is drawn to them." This may create some false expectations for a candidate and his minions and even the media, because an Internet community can be spread out across the whole country, but voting is still carried out locally, and candidates often are chosen based on local values. (see the [hopefully permanent]article at <http://www.upi.com/view.cfm?StoryID=20040120-092014-8691r>) Besides the internal mis-reading and mis-managing of web-o-philes, traditional media outlets also overlooked the data.

Posted by viavr in Internet at 15:06

Rhode Island Governor Orders State Flags Lowered to Half Staff

Jan 21, 2004 - Governor Carcieri order half-staff

CARCIERI STATEMENT ON REP. PAUL SHERLOCK Governor Orders State Flags Lowered to Half Staff
2004-01-18

Governor Donald L. Carcieri today released the following statement regarding the passing of Representative Paul Sherlock.

"Paul Sherlock was a man of great integrity, ability, and passion. Representative Sherlock was a gentleman whose wisdom will be missed by all of us who are working to make Rhode Island a better place to live and work."

"In my short time as Governor, I enjoyed working with Representative Sherlock as we attempted to come to grips with the state's budget problems. Additionally, I deeply appreciated and personally shared his profound commitment to helping those with disabilities. His long years of service have been a tremendous benefit to the citizens of this state."

Blog Export: Flag Blog, <http://www.fivestarflags.com/vox/>

"In honor of Representative Sherlock's 25 years of dedicated service to the people of Rhode Island, I have ordered state flags lowered to half staff until he is laid to rest. In the meantime, my thoughts and prayers, and those of my wife Sue, are with Paul and his family."

Department or agency: Office of the Governor

Posted by viavr in Half-staff News at 13:29

Tuesday, January 20, 2004

Google PageRank Death

Is Pagerank dead? The Google PageRank's attempt to deal with digital density is admirable but flawed. The database claims 3,307,998,701, and the deep web isn't indexed. I estimate there are at least 1/3 to 50% more pages that exist that aren't indexed. The density will only increase, further eroding Pagerank's value as a concept. In the end volume conquers all.

Posted by viavr in Internet at 17:46

Monday, January 19, 2004

CARBONDALE, COLORADO TOWN COUNCIL ISSUES HALF-STAFF PROCLAMATION

January 19, 2004 - Carbondale, Colorado Issues Proclamation for Weekly Half-staff Names of one hundred of the 500 servicemen who have been killed in Iraq were read out loud at Town Hall in Carbondale, Colorado, today week during a ceremony in which the town flag was lowered to half staff in recognition of those who have made the ultimate sacrifice. Carbondale, a town of 5000 residents, has issued a proclamation that its flag will be flown at half staff one day a week until the state of war no longer exists. Text of Proclamation Whereas, The Town of Carbondale, the rest of the United States of America and it's allies, are in a state of war; and Whereas, Our armies have sustained and continue to sustain casualties; and Whereas, The flying of our flag at half staff is a symbol honoring our soldiers who have made the ultimate sacrifice; Now, Therefore Be It Proclaimed, That for the purpose of honoring our war dead, the United States flag that Carbondale flies at its Town Hall shall be lowered and flown at half staff each and every Monday at 8:00 a.m., beginning January 19, 2004, and raised again each Tuesday at 8:00 a.m. Be It Further Proclaimed, That Carbondale shall continue to honor our war dead in this manner until the state of war no longer exists. Dated this 13th day of January, 2004 By: Michael Hassig, Mayor

Posted by viavr in Half-staff News at 17:08

Friday, January 16, 2004

Playboy v Netscape 2

Mr. Battelle, get a little deeper. The suit between Playboy and Netscape is far from a nuisance. It illustrates a continuation of some of the twisted business model values that plagued and then caused the dot-com crash. Battelle writes "The question here is of balance. Where and how do you draw the line as to what is a misuse of a trademark, and what is not? If we have to depend on the courts every time someone wants to use a word that also happens to be trademarked, the chilling effect on paid search could be significant. " The point is that defendants' use of the trademark was in commerce, and they enjoyed an economic benefit. Further, The question is not necessarily of balance, but of value. As the holder of the mark, Playboy's position is no different than other mark holders that are far more aggressive in their enforcement, such as Gucci. Trademark value preservation is the goal, value erosion is what Playboy wants to prevent. This is really only the tip of the iceberg of current search engines' erosion of value. Google is a de facto 'content aggregator' in their cache page. Do content originators and owners enjoy a value benefit from the cache? Some would argue the answer is no, and Google's cache is copyright assumption without the permission of the holder. Cached pages are full of trademarks and copyrighted material that benefit Google most of all, and unless checked diminish copyright, trademark, and content owners intrinsic equity in their assets. The fact that content holders must opt-out of the cache is not the way copyrights work. The value proposition get worse when one begins factoring in Yahoo and Google's product search offerings unveiled in the last couple of quarters. In these offerings, both companies mine the web for product image, description and content for service up to their users. The result is a) product search users get a new version of an on-line catalog, this being Yahoo's or Google's version; and b) can winnow their results by the picture/short description/price the bot was able to parse out. Users get this abbreviated set of data, and are able to quickly get to the lowest-priced offering. This is of course the Google - Yahoo kiss of death for mom and pop e-commerce sites, since the resulting price compression benefits only the customer, the search engine that served the results up, and marketers that enjoy high-volume low margin business models.

Posted by viavr in Internet at 12:23

Thursday, January 15, 2004

Yahoo to drop Google q1 2004

Battelle writes regarding Yahoo's coming split with Google. Google is not necessarily the gorilla, and this is not necessarily good for Google. Yahoo has a significant war chest, and a varied revenue stream. Advertisers with Yahoo stores need not apply to advertise on the AOL network; you are turned away. The competitors in the space know who's who, and behave accordingly. If the resurrected Playboy vs Netscape (by the Ninth Circuit - see <http://news.com.com/2100-1024-5142058.html>) results in precedent favorable to the mark holder, in this case Playboy, Google will have a larger liability exposure to any fall-out. The 'we are (just) an ISP' defense doesn't really cut it. And why should Google benefit by being the underdog? Are you going to lead the market or not? Google's technological stance is quite singular among the search engines, they are after all the one with the 'algorithm' and can easily be considered the mother of heuristic search. The thin veneer of a democratic algorithm is largely worn away by the actual site-building community. If Google is a technology company, they should fight their way to a leadership position and Lead a charge.

Posted by viavr in Internet at 22:55

Court Reopens Lawsuit re: Trademarks in Search Engines

Cnet.news.com reports on the Ninth Circuit US Court of Appeals reopening of Playboy's suit against Netscape Communication and Excite over their sales of banners ads using Playboy's trademarks. The banner ad sales were to third parties. The business model of the search engines are relying on the sales of keyword search sales, and the gray area over which the suit is filed could be precedent-setting. This will affect not only Google, but also Yahoo and AOL, all of whom sell search keywords, and phrases. Gucci is notorious for protecting their mark, and has aggressively enforced their trademark. Ebay, for example, has removed sellers and merchandise from their listings after Gucci complaints.

Posted by viavr at 22:13

Dumb and Dumber

Ole Eichhorn presents a case laden with facts purporting mankind is getting dumber (a lower IQ) over time. If you're still surfing the internet and browsing high-traffic sites, surely you haven't missed what are becoming ubiquitous IQ test come-ons from emode. What a fascinating way to collect demographics to sell to advertisers; emode appeals to the narcissist. After all, who wants to admit being a brick short of a full load?

Posted by viavr in Internet at 19:58

Search Search Search

Thanks to Kottke's blog on Battle Search Engine, we've stumbled onto John Battelle's Search Blog Good job keeping up with what arguably could be the next net bust. Get set for large marketing roll-outs as msn and yahoo implement share pushes as they move out of beta.

Posted by viavr in Internet at 18:18

Apple Hewlett Packard iPod License

iPods are cool, and it's big news for Apple to license said thingy to Hewlett Packard (discussed here on Daring Fireball.) I wonder if HP will lend any velocity to the iPods continuing development (think about their inkjet product life cycle.)

Posted by viavr in Internet at 17:54

Wednesday, January 14, 2004

Blog by mail - email that is.

Posting blog entries by email .. gottahavit. You've earned space on the worthy list!

Posted by viavr in Internet at 18:03

Arizona ARS 33-1261 HOA's shall not prohibit flag displays

As of August 22, 2003, Arizona HOA's are prohibited from preventing members from flying the U.S. Flag, in accordance with the Arizona Revised Statutes: ARS 33-1261 American flag display Notwithstanding any provision in the condominium documents, an association shall not prohibit the outdoor display of the American flag by a unit owner on that unit owner's property if the American flag is displayed in a manner consistent with the federal flag code (P.L. 94-344; 90 Stat. 810; 4 United States Code sections 4 through 10). The association shall adopt reasonable rules and regulations regarding the placement and manner of display of the American flag. The association rules may regulate the location and size of flagpoles but shall not prohibit the installation of a flagpole. ARS 33-1808 American flag display Notwithstanding any provision in the community documents, an association shall not prohibit the outdoor display of the American flag by an association member on that member's property if the American flag is displayed in a manner consistent with the federal flag code (P.L. 94-344; 90 Stat. 810; 4 United States Code sections 4 through 10). The association shall adopt reasonable rules and regulations regarding the placement and manner of display of the American flag. The association rules may regulate the location and size of flagpoles but shall not prohibit the installation of a flagpole. ##### Five Star Flags update above ##### State of Arizona Senate Forty-fifth Legislature Second Regular Session 2002 SB 1055 Introduced by Senators Bundgaard, Smith, Blanchard, Martin, Hamilton, Burns; Representatives Giffords, Blendu, Chase, Anderson, Marsh, Graf, Cooley, Farnsworth, Pierce; Senators Aguirre, Arzberger, Bee, Bennett, Brown, Cirillo, Cummiskey, Daniels, Gerard, Guenther, Hartley, Hellon, Jackson, Jarrett, Lopez J, Mitchell, Petersen, Richardson, Rios, Solomon, Valadez, Verkamp, Yrun; Representatives Avelar, Brimhall, Burton Cahill, Camarot, Cannell, Carpenter, Flake, Gray, Hanson, Hershberger, Huppenthal, Johnson, Knaperek, Lopez L, Loreda, Maiorana, McClure, Nelson, Norris, O'Halleran, Pearce, Pickens, Poelstra, Robson, Sedillo, Soltero, Tom, Voss AN ACT AMENDING TITLE 33, CHAPTER 9, ARTICLE 3, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES, BY ADDING SECTION 33-1261; AMENDING TITLE 33, CHAPTER 16, ARTICLE 1, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES, BY ADDING SECTION 33-1808; RELATING TO CONDOMINIUMS AND PLANNED COMMUNITIES. (TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE) Page 2 SB 1055 - 1 - Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona: 1 Section 1. Title 33, chapter 9, article 3, Arizona Revised Statutes, 2 is amended by adding section 33-1261, to read: 3 33-1261. Flag display 4 NOTWITHSTANDING ANY PROVISION IN THE CONDOMINIUM DOCUMENTS, AN 5 ASSOCIATION SHALL NOT PROHIBIT THE OUTDOOR DISPLAY OF THE AMERICAN FLAG BY A 6 UNIT OWNER ON THAT UNIT OWNER'S PROPERTY IF THE FLAG IS DISPLAYED IN A 7 RESPECTFUL AND HONORABLE MANNER. 8 Sec. 2. Title 33, chapter 16, article 1, Arizona Revised Statutes, is 9 amended by adding section 33-1808, to read: 10 33-1808. Flag display 11 NOTWITHSTANDING ANY PROVISION IN THE COMMUNITY DOCUMENTS, AN 12 ASSOCIATION SHALL NOT PROHIBIT THE OUTDOOR DISPLAY OF THE AMERICAN FLAG BY AN 13 ASSOCIATION MEMBER ON THAT MEMBER'S PROPERTY IF THE FLAG IS DISPLAYED IN A 14 RESPECTFUL AND HONORABLE MANNER. 15

Posted by viavr at 07:00

Tuesday, January 13. 2004

SANE vs Not

The need to have technical brainpower running in problem solving mode running amuck, is not that different than unchecked feature programming - the pm's dreaded featuritis. It's actually an 'insanity check.'

Posted by viavr in Internet at 16:12

Digital Divide : Liberals and conservatives

World Magazine posted the question: Will liberals dominate the new technological frontier? in their blog. The basic premise breaking technological adoption into liberals and conservatives implies a 'digital divide' that might be explained by macro-demographics such as age and gender. Using a political label is a flawed premise to begin with. "Liberal use computers, conservatives don't?" "Liberals use the internet, conservatives don't? The viewpoint is over general, stereotyping, and betray a fear of the unknown.

Posted by viavr in Internet at 11:13

Suspicious Activity

How does your addy wind up receiving those things in your inbox? (The ones you didn't ask for?) Our suspicion has always been the senders generate massive lists of names appended with @hotmail.com, @yahoo.com, @aol.com, and etc. The right side of the @ only need be a couple of handful of known ISP's and the left side is the product of name generators. Of course they exist, just go through the exercise of opening an account at any of the aforementioned, and YOUR name is gone, but there are plenty of suggestions proffered! Get a random name generator at kleimo.com. This link courtesy of the scriptygoddess. (note: we preprended s..goddess with 'the', not she.) And as she points out, great for name and password generation.

Posted by viavr in Internet at 07:40

Monday, January 12. 2004

Sharpton vs. Dean

To start off, 'Pardon the category.' But in a vein, it's appropriate. As an editorial in the New Hampshire Sunday News wrote: Dean, when confronted with the question "How many minority cabinet members did you have while governor?" - should have replied "Rev. Sharpton, how many whites have you hired?" This editorial was right on target. Read it here.

Posted by viavr in ReDnEcK at 21:49

And where would we be if they did?

What if AOL Yahoo and Microsoft allowed us to add to the web-based mail headers? Don't think so. The folks at Habeas who are supposed to be ?? good spam ?? want those three, that arguably own 80% or 90% or more of the mail accounts in the US, to allow header editing. Yeah right. What they want is to become the defacto postage stamp on the sending of e-mail. It's no wonder AOL, Yahoo, and Hotmail just say 'No' to Habeas headers. The Habeas site states "special note for web based e-mail systems like Yahoo, AOL, and Hotmail. While you can still get the benefit of Habeas for email you receive, you cannot presently use Habeas SWE in your outbound mail. We encourage you to contact support@(your service name) and ask that they allow you to include Habeas headers in your outgoing email." All the 'good spam' companies (including spam filters, black hole operators, and any model build on addressing spam) are suspicious. If their model really worked, they'd be out of business, having solved the problem.

Posted by viavr in Internet at 16:38

Florida Community Honors Fallen Soldier Aaron Weaver

Flags in Inverness and surrounding Tampa Bay areas fly at half-staff in memory of Army Sergeant Aaron Weaver. Weaver dies when the Blackhawk helicopter he was flying in was shot down in Iraq. He was also a veteran of Somalia.

Posted by viavr in Half-staff News at 10:41

Sunday, January 11. 2004

Eyecandy for the day

An argument in pictures: The Decline of Fashion Photography - Just say it ain't so. Who knew? Pretty interesting concept (especially for *s old f@rts). Here's a formfactor in no-mans land. Is it print or is it internet? Try this magazine on.

Posted by viavr at 16:41

The coin of the realm

Next to flags, currency and stamps define authorities. It's interesting to note a feature built into Photoshop, that prevents currency manipulation. According to BoingBoing.net, the Photoshop CS automatically detects images of US currency. This of course might prevent sarcastic usage of the coins of the realm, such as the wonderfully funny examples here. And (if globalised, after all, it's just another feature hidden or not) just plain money depictions as here. This revealing connect-a-dot would not be possible either! For all the subliminal marketers out there, can we expect to see a new layout every election cycle? This one is hilarious and is a must see. Link courtesy of Squoogy.Weblogs.com

Posted by viavr in Internet at 00:00

Thursday, January 8, 2004

New Mexico Governor Richardson orders half-staff across state

Governor Bill Richardson Orders Flags in New Mexico To Be Flown At Half-Staff In Honor of Jesse Bingaman, Father of U.S. Senator Jeff Bingaman
SANTA FE- Governor Bill Richardson today issued an Executive Order directing flags in New Mexico to fly at half-staff to honor the late Jesse F. Bingaman, Sr., father of U.S. Senator Jeff Bingaman. Jesse Bingaman passed away yesterday at the age of 93. The Executive Order states that flags in New Mexico should be flown at half-staff from today through the interment, which has not yet been scheduled.
EXECUTIVE ORDER 2004-01
WHEREAS, Jesse F. Bingaman, Sr., father of Senator Jeff Bingaman, dedicated his life to his family, public service in science and science education, and through his leadership inspired people of all ages; WHEREAS, Mr. Bingaman moved to New Mexico in early 1920 with his parents and his four brothers, first to Santa Rita, and later to Silver City. He attended public schools in Silver City and graduated in 1930 from New Mexico State Teachers College (now Western New Mexico University); WHEREAS, Mr. Bingaman began teaching at the college before his formal graduation and his teaching career extended for 45 years until he retired in 1976 as head of the WNMU Science Department. In 1933 he earned a Masters Degree in Chemistry from Stanford University. In 1990 he was awarded an honorary Doctorate in Science by Western New Mexico University; WHEREAS, During World War II, Bingaman served as a second lieutenant in the US Navy, as an instructor in sonar detection in San Diego, California; and WHEREAS, Mr. Bingaman was a devoted husband and father who is survived by his two children Rachel Koel and Senator Jeff Bingaman, daughter-in-law Anne K. Bingaman, grandsons Tom Koel and Eric Koel, and John Bingaman, and great-grandson Christopher Koel. NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bill Richardson, Governor of the State of New Mexico, by virtue of the authority vested in the Governor, do hereby order that all flags be flown at half-staff from Wednesday, January 7, 2004, through the date of interment, in mourning and in honor of Jesse F. Bingaman, Sr. The thoughts and prayers of the people of New Mexico go out to the family of Jesse F. Bingaman, Sr. as well as a heartfelt thank you for his public service.
ATTEST: DONE AT THE EXECUTIVE OFFICE THIS 7th DAY OF JANUARY, 2004
REBECCA VIGIL-GIRON WITNESS MY HAND AND THE GREAT SEAL OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO
DIANE D. DENIS, GOVERNOR, PURSUANT TO HER AUTHORITY AS ACTING GOVERNOR OF NEW MEXICO

Posted by viavr in Half-staff News at 10:42

Blog Export: Flag Blog, <http://www.fivestarflags.com/vox/>

Sunday, January 4, 2004

Internet Flag at the Guggenheim

Aspiring Vexillologists - construct your own flag at the Guggenheim Netflag. This is part of their permanent collection and allows you to construct a flag to reflect your ideas.

Posted by viavr in American Flag at 15:09

Saturday, January 3, 2004

Nascar Dads

Do NASACAR dads marry soccer moms? It seems plenty of Republicans are after the male vote, a little bit of the Redneck factor, no? According to Maryland's on-line community, 19% of voters consider themselves Nascar Fans.

Posted by viavr in ReDnEcK at 15:36