The Blog and the Public Sphere:

Future Media and Emerging Research Topics

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Structure

• Blogs and traditional media
• Social life of communication
• Transformation of the public sphere
• New media, new society?
• Discussion on emerging research issues
Weblogs are...

• ”...often-updated sites that point to articles elsewhere on the web, often with comments, and to on-site articles. A weblog is kind of a continual tour, with a human guide who you get to know. There are many guides to choose from, each develops an audience, and there's also comraderie and politics between the people who run weblogs, they point to each other, in all kinds of structures, graphs, loops, etc.”

• ”Today, there are hundreds of thousands of weblog sites, and the market for tools for managing such sites is growing quickly.”

source: Dave Winer: http://newhome.weblogs.com/historyOfWeblogs
A Blog is...

Welcome to the all-new fast Weblogs.Com!

Recently Changed Weblogs


Welcome to the meeting place for blogging excellence on the Internet. Any weblog can participate. See the FAQ page for more information.

1. Seeing Red 10:09 AM
2. The Ends of the Earth 10:08 AM
3. trytry 10:08 AM
4. Lunch 10:08 AM
5. Michael Wilson's Radio Weblog 10:08 AM
6. bakabaka 10:07 AM
7. Will Rodriguez's HotBlog 10:07 AM
8. Z o r bl o g 10:07 AM
9. Caveat Lector 10:07 AM
10. SlashDot.Org 10:07 AM
11. Terebi II 10:06 AM
12. xtof, un blogue ou un weblog 10:06 AM
...the list continues...

549. mesh on MX 7:16 AM
550. Community 7:16 AM
551. Emulating Blogger in Manila 7:16 AM
552. Curiouser and curiouser! 7:16 AM
553. henry blog 7:15 AM
554. La scrivania 7:15 AM
555. Philos Tagebuch 7:15 AM
556. O-R Online | Off the record 7:14 AM
557. WebReference.com 7:14 AM
558. WebSeitz WikiWeblog 7:14 AM
559. American Invisible, Inc. 7:13 AM
560. Nick Browne's Commonplace Book 7:13 AM
561. ScottAhrens.Net 7:13 AM
562. stinkfoot.org 7:13 AM
563. Jenna's Radio Weblog 7:13 AM
564. journal / barbara fletcher 7:10 AM
565. Rhino News Network 7:09 AM
"Digitally Laminating This Day in History With News, Humor, Links and Pics"

Thursday, May 30, 2002

Tax Man

A Maryland man filed his tax returns in Indiana - 164 times - netting him $372,909 in refunds. Hey, it could have just been an honest mistake, right? I mean, those forms are kind of confusing.

posted by Jimmy Olsen 11:54 AM Comments: 0

Tuesday, May 28, 2002

Fred Durst Reduced to a Pathetic, Grovelling Shell - Yeah!

Fred "Sucks" Durst has sunk so low he's now begging former Limp Bizkit guitarist Wes Borland to return. In the immortal words of Nelson, Springfield bully and social commentator: "Ha, ha!"

posted by Jimmy Olsen 12:08 PM Comments: 0

World's First Computer Bug (Literally)

Found in 1947, by IBM.

posted by Jimmy Olsen 11:57 PM Comments: 0
Your Rights Online: EU to Require Opt-In for Commercial Email

 Posted by michael on Thursday May 30, @12:41PM

 from the all things dull and ugly dept.

 D4C5CE writes "EuroCAUCE (Usenet message below) and Heise (in German) report that the European Parliament has voted to ban spam by adopting the "opt-in" system for unsolicited commercial email, finally freeing the way for the entry into force of a European Parliament and Council directive concerning the processing of personal data and the protection of privacy in the electronic communications sector". The news of the parliamentary U-turn comes after a recommendation by the "Committee on Citizens' Freedoms and Rights, Justice and Home Affairs" to permit "opt-out" marketing had received critical coverage, causing countless spam victims world-wide to alert the Members of the European Parliament to the big mistake they were about to make, and it is hoped to become the useful precedent of a workable approach for US lawmakers currently evaluating means to regulate spam as well." The Parliament's daily notebook has an overview. Individual EU countries still have to implement this with legislation before it is effective.

(Read More... | 2528 bytes in body | 63 of 94 comments | Your Rights Online )

New GNU Hurd Kernel Released

 Posted by michael on Thursday May 30, @11:49AM

 from the not-just-chewing-their-cud dept.

 Anonymous Coward writes "I don't know if there is much interest out there, but GNU Mach Kernel 1.3 was just released a couple days ago. (May 28)." Looking forward to that 2002 release ...

(Read More... | 53 of 126 comments )

Book Reviews: SSH, The Secure Shell

 Posted by timothy on Thursday May 30, @10:45AM


SEEING RED

description

kitsch 'n' giggles for the ROKENROL scene

agit pop

May 30, 2002

JellyBelly Elvis

The King as rendered in jellybeans, alongside other historical figures like American presidents. Now all they need is Stalin, Lenin, and Pookie Poot...

Posted by Michelle at 01:06 PM | Comments (0) | Mail this entry

Seeing Red Margaritas Tabasco must love my site, because they named a drink after it! Well, ok, not really. But those of you of the proper age might enjoy this recipe anyway. (And while you're at it, visit their e-gone cards collection. They've got some interesting rip-offs of famous artworks.)

- 1 cup frozen strawberries
- 1/3 cup tequila
- 2 tablespoons lime juice
- 2 tablespoons superfine sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon TABASCO brand Pepper Sauce
- 2 cups ice cubes
Blogs are, for example, about:

- Silonline: Joinions and Photography
- Thoughts on America Today by David C. Parker
- Sily Cassandra by Cassandra
- An Latino by LAT_CHAMAN
- Sorvete de Casquinho: by Nathalia D.
- Goppy Blog by Glenn Gopper Simms
- Amakate by Kate

just finished this month's updates, any changes you've requested should be done, I've also cleared a lot of the dead weblogs, thanks to all who took the time to notify me. 5/27/2002 03:43:06 PM

there's a bug in the add weblog page, if you're having trouble adding your weblog, make sure there are no quotation marks. 'single quotes' work fine, but "double quotes" will fail. 5/10/2002 10:41:51 AM

I just did an update for all the changes that have been submitted since the end of march, so, if you've been anxiously waiting for your change to go through, it should be made, btw, if you submit a suggestion for a new category, include your weblog name so that i have something to put in the new category. 4/17/2002 11:23:41 AM

blogKomm: comments no popups is a new comment system for blogger weblogs. you need to have php4 on your server too. 3/11/2002 09:09:45 AM
An example of a multiauthor blog

**WEBLOG**

*Toukokuun 30. 2002*

17 years after she appeared on a National Geographic cover, "The Afghan Girl", Sharbat Gula, tells her story and reveals her face

*roosa*

If you read French, some serious häkkutus in Le Monde on Kaumismäki *roosa*

* Toukokuun 29. 2002 *

A good piece on the structure of the current IPR regime (The Guardian) *marko*

* Toukokuun 28. 2002 *

Amnesty on Finland *marko*

On "therapeutic" dening (Atlantic Monthly) *marko*

_Bono_ and O’Neill in Africa (CSM) *marko*

A memorial and a future for Manhattan (FT) *marko*

Reconstructing the Wright Brothers *marko*

What is archive-worthy? (WP) *marko*

* Toukokuun 27. 2002 *

Small pieces, loosely joined - on Weinberger’s new book (FT) *marko*

Finnish start - on the nuclear power vote (FT) *marko*

The Hollywood - Sillicon Valley Digital Divide (FT) *marko*

_Indigenous_ media (Wired) *marko*

Supporting community and Building Social Capital (Communication of the ACM - April 2002) *marko*
Mass Communication According to Thompson

- Institutionalized production and diffusion of symbolic goods
- Instituted break between production and reception
- Extension of availability in time-space
- Public circulation of symbolic forms

- Communication is about circulation of information and "symbolic goods" in "arenas of circulation"

Assumptions of the Old Media

• producer and consumer are separate
• only the end product is visible
• production is an industry
• content reflects reality

...and blogs

• user is the producer
• backstage is the frontstage
• production is expression
• content reflects interpretation
• implicit narrative
Technical Medium of Cultural Transmission

richness of reproduction

storage capacity

degree of participation

adapted from J. Thompson, 1990; source: Tuomi (2001): From Periphery to Center, Tekes.
Arenas of Meaning Circulation: Face-to-Face

a) Face-to-face interaction

primary arena of circulation

peripheral arenas of circulation

Communicators share a time-space reference system
Technically Mediated Interaction

- Primary arena of circulation
- Secondary arena of circulation
- Peripheral arenas of circulation

Separation of the contexts of production and reception
Mediated Quasi-Interaction

b) Mediated quasi-interaction

primary arena of circulation

secondary arena of circulation

peripheral arenas of circulation

books, newspapers, radio, television
The Internet

production / reception

general

specific

primary arenas of circulation

production / reception

general

specific

secondary arena of circulation

peripheral arenas of circulation

secondary arena of circulation

peripheral arenas of circulation
Communication is a Side-Effect of Social Interaction

• Communicators are not without social context but people who are members of various communities that generate motives and activity
• Some of this activity can be characterized as "communication"

• so, what do we know about communities and their communication?

Ilkka Tuomi:
in my personal opinion, Maturana and Varela have perhaps the most insightful analysis of the concept of communication; Luhmann follows these guys. Luhmann’s problem, however, is that he doesn’t connect communication with other types of pragmatic activity, c.f. Tuomi, I. (1999) Corporate Knowledge: Theory and Practice of Intelligent Organizations.
Evolutionary Communities and Division of Labor

"fractal organization in time"

Internet Communities of Practice

Boundaries, Transformations, and Boundary Objects

- Syntactic knowledge boundary
  - Coordinate pre-specified dependencies
  - Transformation infrastructure: Transfer
  - Boundary-crossing: information systems
- Semantic knowledge boundary
  - Create shared meanings
  - Transformation infrastructure: Transfer and translation
  - Boundary-crossing: communities of practice, networks of communities
- Pragmatic knowledge boundary
  - Negotiate interdependencies
  - Transformation infrastructure: Transfer, translation, and transformation
  - Boundary-crossing: conflict management, developmental work practices

Adapted from: Paul Carlile: Boundary infrastructures for knowledge leadership and collaboration, Berkeley Knowledge Forum, 20.9.2001
In a modern society, you have specialized groups and division of labor. In traditional modern societies, the interdependencies were relatively stable.
Correspondence Theory of Social Reality

correspondence

concepts

practices
Interpretative position
Levels of Innovation

- Conceptual
  - Interpretative change
- Social
  - Interactional change
- Resource level
  - Innovative learning
  - Technical innovation

Action → Action
Goal
Constraint
Operation → Operation
Public Sphere as a Common Arena
Public Sphere as Shared Rationality

"jumping over the shared fence of rationality"
Why Public Sphere is Important

- Political process in modern society is based on negotiation of interests between different interest groups
  - interests and their differences are constructed and articulated by reflecting them through mass media

But,

- New media implies new polis
  - new polis implies new concepts of work, citizenship, identity, family, and privacy
- New media, therefore, implies new concepts or responsibility, rights, and ethics
  - that’s why it is interesting: new media is not only about new technology but about new society
So, What are the Interesting and Important Research Topics That We Should Think About?