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Please, take care of this one.

DARRYD.COM UPDATED

- These are some of the updates since the last [ExcelNet News](#):
- ✓ [Internet Explorer 7](#) — EasyRead: a Webpage Magnifier. You no longer have to squint while trying to read the small fonts on a webpage.
 - ✓ [Muses & Memories](#) — “Do You Know Where I Live?”
 - ✓ [Outlook Express](#) — Dave Lee’s “Alternate Sender Using Message Rules.”
 - ✓ [Windows](#) — How to Update AVG AntiVirus
 - ✓ [God's Garden](#) — “Ivory & Gold Tablecloth” and “Before”

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INSTRUCTABLES.COM TELLS HOW TO DO IT

[Orange County IBM PC Users' Group](#)²

[Instructables.com](#) offers “step-by-step instructions for making things you never knew you wanted.”

This site provides a step-by-step collaboration system that allows users to share projects through photos, video, text, ingredient lists, CAD files, and more. There are simple to advanced instructions for hundreds of projects, such as making a robot from a computer mouse, turning a MiniMag flashlight into a powerful laser pointer, making a retractable 1/8" stereo patch cable, creating a simple business card iPhone/iPod stand, getting into Windows XP without a password, and cracking Windows passwords.

Other instructions are not tech-related.

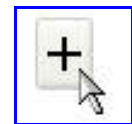
For example, the grandkids will love you for constructing a marshmallow gun from plastic pipes.

EASYREAD: A WEBPAGE MAGNIFIER

Darry D Eggleston, <http://DarryD.com>

If you're frustrated at Internet Explorer not allowing you to view Webpages at the size you want then you'll appreciate EasyRead.

In Internet Explorer 6, the EasyRead ToolBar button allows you to magnify any HTML page.



In Internet Explorer 7, you must RIGHT-click on the page to see the EasyRead options.

Yes, you can enlarge the fonts on a page by holding down the Ctrl key, on the keyboard, and scrolling away from the hand; but, while enlarging the view, that technique places the excess data off the screen. That requires the user to scroll back-and-forth laterally just to read the text. (See Figure 3.)

² Provided to the Association of Personal Computer User Groups (APCUG) by the author for publication by its member groups.

EasyRead has these features:

- ① Easily Zoom in and out on any Webpage at the touch of a button
- ② Great for those of you with poor sight when viewing small size text
- ③ Works in all situations, when Internet Explorer's 'Text Size' fails
- ④ Works with pages in frames
- ⑤ Prints your HTML page magnified
- ⑥ Totally 100% Free!
- ⑦ No pop-up advertisements or spyware
- ⑧ Works for Windows 2000, XP, Me, NT

You can download EasyRead at <http://www.iconico.com/easyRead/>.

A full, step-by-step lesson on downloading, installing and using EasyRead is loaded at <http://darryd.com/IE7> .

Definitions of **homepage** on the Web:

- The main page of a Web site. Typically, the home page serves as an index or table of contents to other documents stored at the site.
www.estoreready.com/glossary.html
- The main web page for an organisation, person or interest group. It is usually the first, or welcoming, page of a Web site.
www.utas.edu.au/library/etutor/main/webzglos.htm
- Several meanings. Originally, the web page that your browser is set to use when it starts up. The more common meaning refers to the main web page for a business, organization, person or simply the main page out of a collection of web pages, eg "Check out so-and-so's new Home Page."
www.planetech.co.uk/glossary.htm
- The first page, which is usually a welcoming or organizing page, on a World Wide Web site.
library.albany.edu/usered/basics/libterm.html

Figure 1 – Original view of Webpage

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www.planetech.co.uk/glossary.htm

Figure 2 — Webpage with EasyRead

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- Several meanings. Originally, the web page that your browser is set to use when it starts up. The more common meanings are: business, organization, person or simply the main page out of a collection of web pages, eg “Check out

Figure 3 — Webpage using Ctrl key + mouse scroll button

MASHUP: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Darry D Eggleston

Andy Dornan (“[Mashup Basics](#): Three for the Money,” *Network Computing*, September 5, 2007) accepts the theory that there are only three kinds of mashups: presentation, data and logic. However, the music industry is seeing a fourth kind, sometimes called “bastard pop.”

So what do you need to know about this new computer craze?

Doran points out, “There’s some disagreement in the industry about what, exactly, constitutes a *mashup*. While they clearly involve integrating data from one or more sources, that doesn’t necessarily require special tools. It can, in principle, be done anywhere, using any kind of programming language. [Kapow Technologies](#) says mashups differ from other kinds of application integration in that the end user has some control. Oracle says that enterprise mashups involve both internal and external data sources. Nexaweb Technologies believes mashups are defined as Web-based, while Curl says they happen on the client rather than the server.”

A *presentation mashup* is the simplest form, bringing info from more than one source together into a common user interface. Web portals can be presentation mashups, though internal enterprise portals are still fairly static compared with public Websites, like [iGoogle](#) and [My Yahoo](#), that let users select features to appear on their homepages. Since presentation mashups

involve little real integration, creating them usually means simply dragging and dropping pre-built widgets or choosing among RSS feeds.

RSS (Really Simple Syndication) is the method used to subscribe to sites that regularly post new items and information. While viewing such a site, look for the orange RSS icon in the ToolBar and click it. You'll see a preview of the site's feed and an option to subscribe. To access your subscriptions, use the Ctrl+Shift+J keys to open Internet Explorer's Favorites Center; click a feed to see the latest posts from that site.

Data Mashup means combining extracted data from multiple sources. Instead of looking through multiple data-bases, users can query several data-bases at once, saving time and enabling more cross-referencing and comparison. The most well-known examples are the map-based mashups which mix geographical data with something else, whether Wi-Fi hot spots, real estate prices or crime statistics.

Data mashups can be much harder to create because it requires some programming skills. However, Yahoo's [Pipes](#) offers a programming-free way to build data mashups on public sites, and vendors like [Coghead](#) — which has gotten a lot of positive [press](#) — aim to make them accessible to non-technical people too. Data mashups can add value. Consider a map of potential customers, a map of club members or a portal that mixes customer relations management and accounting applications for customer service representatives.

Logic mashups connect two or more applications, automating certain tasks, and include awareness of work flow. The most well-known examples are comparison-shopping sites like [Kayak](#) and [Wingmap](#), which use Web services to retrieve fares and then book flights at multiple online travel agencies.

According to [Wikipedia](#), *Bastard pop* is a musical genre which, in its purest form, consists of the combination (usually by digital means) of the music from one song with the *acapella* from another. (Acapella is singing without any instrumental accompaniment.) Typically, the music and vocals belong to completely different genres. Bastard pop songs strive for a musical phenomenon that adds up to considerably more than the sum of their parts.

Looking for an example of an RSS (Really Simple Syndication) mashup? See photo at the right or click [here](#) for online examples.



STORM WORM BOTNET A REAL-WORLD THREAT

According to Sharon Gaudin (*Information Week*, "[The Botnet Strikes Back](#)," 10 September 2007, p. 22), "The Storm Worm Botnet has grown so massive that researchers say it has more power than the top supercomputers. And now it's being turned against researchers trying to stop it."

The botnet is a network of Windows machines compromised by the Storm worm. Estimates of its size range wildly, but researchers agree it's one of the largest zombie grids.

Matt Sergeant, chief anti-spam technologist with MessageLabs, says, "If you add up all 500 of the top supercomputers, it blows them all away with just 2 million of its machines. It's very frightening that criminals have access to that much computing power, but there's not much we can do about it." He says researchers at MessageLabs see about 2 million different computers in the botnet sending out spam on any given day, and he adds that he estimates the botnet generally is operating at about 10% of capacity. He suspects the botnet could be as large as 50 million computers.

Now the botnet is launching distributed denial-of-service attacks against computers that scan for vulnerabilities or malware. Anti-spam research group Spamhaus has been under attack since July.

Most companies' biggest risk is employee PCs being infected, but there is concern that a group could rent the botnet for a denial-of-service attack on government agencies, utilities, or financial centers.

[ZD Net](#), in Great Britain ("Storm worm: More powerful than BlueGene?" 12 September 2007), quotes Peter Guttman, a computer sciences security researcher: "This may be the first time that a top 10 supercomputer has been controlled not by a government or mega-corporation but by criminals. The question remains, now that they have the world's most powerful supercomputer system at their disposal, what are they going to do with it?"

At the lowest estimate of one million computers, Guttman calculated the group behind the Storm worm would have at least one petabyte of RAM, compared with BlueGene/L's "paltry 32 terabytes".

A *terabyte* is a unit of computer memory or data storage capacity equal to 1,024 gigabytes, one trillion bytes or about 1 million books. One million Gb are a *petabyte* (Pb). (A *byte* is 8 bits. A *bit* is either a one or a zero.)

According to [iTnews](#), Adam Swidler, a senior manager with security company Postini, said that “since mid-July, Postini researchers have recorded 1.2 billion e-mails that have been spit out by the botnet. A record was set on Aug. 22 when 57 million virus-infected messages — 99 percent of them from the Storm worm — were tracked crossing the Internet.”

In real-world terms, it means the cyber criminals who control the botnet have a tremendous amount of destructive power at their fingertips. Early this summer, the Baltic nation of Estonia was attacked in a cyberwar that saw distributed denial-of-service attack primarily targeting the Estonian government, banking, media, and police sites. (See the “Cyberwar” articles at Darry D Eggleston’s [ExcelNet News](#).)

To protect its network, Estonia had to shut down key computer systems, and targeted sites were inaccessible outside the country for extended periods.

So what can you do? You can make sure that your system has these software programs installed, updated and running:

- ✓ Firewall. Both [ZoneAlarm](#) and [Comodo](#) are free and well-respected programs.
- ✓ Anti-virus. [AVG AntiVirus](#) is recommended by top publications.
- ✓ Anti-adware, spyware and scumware. One of the best known and recommended programs is [SpyBot: Search & Destroy](#).

GLOBAL ANTI-CRIME CENTERS PROPOSED

Darry D Eggleston

According to the [Associated Press](#) (“Interpol Looks To Fight Cyber-crime,” September 13, 2007), “Interpol proposed on Wednesday (12 September) the creation of global and regional anti-crime centers to fight criminal activity online and respond quickly to emergency cybercrime alerts.

The France-based Interpol, the world’s largest international police organization, with 186 member countries, organized the 2-day conference in New Delhi, the Indian capital. During it, officials from 37 countries discussed

identity theft, online bank fraud, Internet gaming and the risks of online terrorist activity.

Creating global and regional anti-crime centers “is an ambitious idea, but we are determined to turn [it] into a reality because this problem is too big for even the G-8 and Council of Europe,” Interpol Secretary-General Ronald K. Noble said. “It requires a truly global response.”

When created, the centers would help law enforcement with investigations, training and accessing resources from a combined team of police officers and computer experts.

One of the topics was the threat from large-scale BotNets.

A “Botnet” is a collection of software robots, or bots, which run autonomously. A botnet’s originator places that unauthorized software (bots) on compromised computers, controlling that group of computers remotely and surreptitiously, usually through a means such as IRC (Internet Relay Chat), and usually for nefarious purposes. Those computers are called “zombies.”

For more, read articles on “cybercrime” and “Bot (robot) Herders” at my [ExcelNet News](#) webpage.

HOME IN SECOND LIFE FOR 1ST TIME

Shannon Behnken, [“Realty Homes In On Virtual World,”](#) *The Tampa Tribune*, Business, September 12, 2007, p. 1

For the first time, a real estate firm has marketed an actual home in a virtual community.

In a month, over 1,000 people visited a \$3.1 million home listed for sale near Seattle. They come in day and night, but even though all this feels real, it’s not.

The home is Coldwell Banker’s 3-D reproduction of a real-life home on Mercer Island, Washington, in the virtual world called Second Life. Visitors use an avatar (virtual alter ego) to walk through the 5,702-square-foot home, turn on or off the lights and chat with other potential homeowners.

Experts say that as consumers become more comfortable navigating the Web, commerce in virtual worlds will become routine. Companies are holding meetings, interviewing job applicants and buying virtual land so they can expand their businesses there in the future.

Also gaining popularity on Second Life are industry seminars. Some are free, some charge a fee for attendance.

'A real seminar could cost \$1,000 to attend. On Second Life, you can attend several seminars and enter and leave without disruption.

Using the Internet to sell homes is nothing new. Companies have been posting photos and video tours of tours of homes for years. Marketing a real home in virtual world is a natural extension.

Although not all the 1,000 visitors to the online home are serious buyers, it's attracting those with genuine interest. 'At a normal open house, you may get 100 people to tour the home, if you're lucky,' Marine said. That's how many have toured the real \$3.1 million home outside Seattle.

Marine said other Coldwell Banker agents are interested in trying the online tours, but there are no plans to do so yet because of the cost. It cost just under \$10,000 to create a 3-D home and market it on Second Life. The average \$300,000 home isn't going to get this kind of national interest.

A note from Darry D: I've previously reported about the [Sweden and Maldives embassies in Second Life](#) and the influence of the Web on the [Presidential Campaign](#).

WINDOWS VISTA, SERVICE PACK 1

Darry D Eggleston

When released in the first quarter of 2008, Windows Vista's Service Pack 1 will include:

- ① Fewer prompts for information from the User Account Control feature.
- ② Faster copying and unzipping of files.
- ③ Speedier system wake-up from standby or hibernate modes.
- ④ Reduced battery drain and enhanced external display performance on laptops.
- ⑤ Expanded support for using the BitLocker feature to encrypt disk drives and partitions.
- ⑥ The ability to disable Windows Vista's built-in desktop search engine in favor of Google Desktop or other tools.

ALERT: POSTCARD FROM A FAMILY MEMBER

[Greater Tampa Bay PC User Group](#), September 15, 2007

Watch out for a 'postcard from a family member' email. (It could also contain the words 'urban legends' reference pages)

Delete the email without opening it

First making the rounds in June 2007, it is being sent again.

Do not open 'Postcard from a Family Member.'

Verified by Snopes: <http://www.snopes.com/computer/virus/postcard.asp>

FLORIDA CITRUS REDUCED AGAIN

According to *The Tampa Tribune* ("Citrus Groves Squeezed," Business, September 15, 2007, p.1), "Florida, the world's second largest orange grower, lost more citrus groves over the past year to storm damage, disease and urban development, a government study showed. Citrus acreage and tree totals dropped by 4.1% over the past year, the U.S. Agriculture Department said Friday in a survey of the counties that produce 56% of the state's fruit. Total acres fell to 332,447."

AVG UPDATES

AVG AntiVirus checks for updates as soon as the system is turned on and the firewall is working. There are two challenges in this scheme.

❶ If you don't check for an update immediately, before opening your email or beginning work on a project, the update process will take over your screen causing some consternation. I recommend using the steps in my lesson, "AVG Update" at <http://darryd.com/Windows>.

❷ If you use your computer for an extended time, follow those same procedures periodically since AVG checks for an update only on that initial startup.

You can download this free anti-virus program by clicking [here](#).

IRAQ WAR COSTS GOING UP & UP & UP

The Tampa Tribune (“Castor Says Facts Show War Not Going Well,” Metro, September 15, 2007, p. 2) reports, “According to the Congressional Research Service, the cost of the war has reached \$10 billion a month, or \$2.3 billion a week, and has increased each year since the war began. It is expected to go from \$120 billion this year to \$160 billion next year.”

NYC CABS GET MORE THAN GPS

This is a followup to my 15 August [ExcelNet News](#) article on New York City cabs getting global positioning system (GPS).

According to Allan J. Fromberg, deputy commissioner, public affairs, New York City Taxi and Limousine Commission (*ComputerWorld*, “NYC Taxis Will Get Far More Than GPS,” September 10, 2007, p. 8), there is a lot more than just GPS involved in the New York City taxi upgrades.

What’s included in the technology upgrade includes credit/debit card acceptance tools, passenger monitors, interactive electronic maps, electronic trip sheets (no more crucial data collected by pencils and clipboards), 2-way text messaging systems, and entertainment and music systems.

GPS is only the smallest component of these systems, which were required in a vote that took place — with the [taxi] industry’s support — in March 2004 in return for a historic 26% fare increase. The industry agreed at the time that something would have to be given back to the public in the way of customer service enhancement.

Today, the vast majority of the industry remains excited about the systems, which are currently in almost 1,000 of the city’s cabs, with more of them quickly being added every day.

MICROSOFT'S GREATEST HIT OF 2007

Michael Swaine's "[Microsoft's Greatest Hit of 2007](#)," at *Dr. Dobb's Journal*, September 05, 2007, is a fast summary of the pitfalls of being Microsoft.

His opening paragraph gets your attention: "Six months after Microsoft's introduction of Vista, we learn that the excitement generated by its launch is definitely driving PC sales. Sales of PCs running Windows XP, that is. Apparently, Windows XP is just so darned good that people can't give it up. Meanwhile, Office sales brought in enough money to offset the billion bucks that Xbox repairs are costing the company. That other hardware product, the one that comes in brown and has a name that sounds like the Gatekeeper from Ghostbusters, is somewhat overshadowed by its competition. Or as CNET blogger Don Reisinger puts it, 'the very products keeping Microsoft afloat are quickly becoming its albatross.'"

Swaine's wit never lets you stop reading the suggested greatest hits.

Want to know what Swaine says is Microsoft's greatest hit of 2007? Click [here](#) to read it. He's "hit the nail on the head," and that's not praise for Microsoft's long-term thinking.

WATER COSTS

Darry D Eggleston

Conservation does not come easy to Americans. The average consumer still has little understanding of how inexpensive our resources are.

This chart shows what we pay in relation to consumers in other nations.

Maybe if we paid more, we'd save more.

