



News Alert: The Mouse Turns 40!

The computer mouse celebrated its 40th anniversary on December 8, 2008. It was in 1968 that computer visionary Douglas Engelbart showed off his new invention to an audience of 1,000 at a technology conference in California.



Engelbart's revolutionary "pointing device" was made of wood and had two wheels built onto the bottom. It was originally designed to highlight text on a written document. Engelbart wowed onlookers by demonstrating how text could be selected, copied and pasted. Engelbart also said he always wondered why the term "mouse" never changed into a more technical word after it became a commercial success.

Today, computer mice are found everywhere. The only real changes to the mouse technology in the past four decades have been the transition to laser mice, the right click button and the scroll wheel. It looks like mice are here to stay, despite new innovations, such as the touch screen.

Experts say the mouse is still difficult to beat in terms of ease of use and functionality. It's hard to believe, but Douglas Engelbart has never received a penny for his world changing invention. His patent ran out before computer companies started mass producing mice. Pretty interesting, isn't it? Happy Birthday, mouse!

Adapted From worldstart.com

Love is in the air



Happy Valentines Day!

Our Customers Say It Best. . .

Each time we have contacted ISOC.NET we have talked with Sean. He has been very knowledgeable and extremely helpful, all in a professional manner. We have been and are extremely satisfied with each experience we have had with ISOC.NET

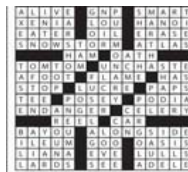


Sean. Thanks!

Word of the Day

Internet backbone

The super fast network spanning the world, from one major metropolitan area to another. It is supported by a handful of Internet Service Providers (ISPs). These companies and organizations use connections that run at approximately 45MB per second (T3 lines) and are linked at specified interconnection points called "national access points" or "regional nerve centers." Local



ISPs connect to this backbone through routers so data can be sent and received though the backbone.

Climbing the corporate lattice

Career movement has been defined as "climbing the corporate ladder." The ladder starts at the bottom and ends somewhere in the executive office. The ladder metaphor doesn't have the most positive connotations, bringing to mind one person stepping on the fingers on another person who is hanging to the rung just below. I believe the single-minded quest for reaching the top of "the ladder" has meant a lot of lost opportunities for people. While reaching only for the prize at the top, you forget to look at lateral opportunities that may be more fulfilling.

A lot of people judge themselves by their proximity to the CEO and nothing else. Their goal is to get closer as quickly as possible without sometimes developing the skills that could ensure they stay there.

The linear approach to career success suggested by the ladder may also be on its way to becoming outmoded. Already, social engineering sites are being used to greater advantage than the old "friends in high places" approach. People using LinkedIn are not reaching out only to those with more important corporate positions — they're reaching out to peers and to those they know in entry-level positions.

Cathy Benko, vice chairwoman and chief talent officer for Deloitte L.L.P., has coined a new term that I hope will take root: the corporate lattice. In a piece for The New York Times, Benko described her concept this way:

Our approach provides a framework for organizations and their people to know their options, make choices and agree on trade-offs in four career dimensions — pace, workload, location/schedule and role — ensuring that value is created for both employer and employee. It acknowledges that workers' priorities change over time. In essence, it replaces the corporate ladder with a lattice, encouraging adaptability and a longer view.

In a way, success itself is being redefined. It's no longer the 1950s, where success was sometimes defined by salary and job perks alone. Now it's defined in flex time, benefits, autonomy, etc. Makes you wonder what affect the concept of the corporate lattice will have on blind ambition?

By: Toni Bowers

Stall your upgrade to Internet Explorer 8



A lot of the industry talk speaks highly of Microsoft's next version of Internet Explorer. There are several new features, including private browsing, advanced screening of malicious web sites and downloads, and a compatibility tool that allows the software to correctly render pages designed for older browsers. Microsoft will be distributing IE 8 via Microsoft Update as a recommended upgrade for all Windows users.

The only problem with this plan is that unless your tech team is centrally managing your Windows updates - with Windows Server Update Service or Systems

Management Server 2003, say - the clients on your network might upgrade to the new software automatically. Unless you have tested all your critical web apps to make sure that they will work with IE 8, you could be in for some user support nightmares. Nothing will screw up your clients' day like not being able to get their work done after an automatic update.

It probably won't be easy to roll back to IE 7 once the later version is installed, so better to keep it from getting applied until you are sure you're ready to support it. If you don't have WSUS or SMS in place, Microsoft has released a tool that can help you. They call it the Internet Explorer Blocker Toolkit, and it consists of an executable registry script (which can be run on any machine) and a template for Group Policy administrators. If you use the Blocker Toolkit, your machine won't apply the IE 8 upgrade as part of its automatic update schedule. If you have users on your network with admin accounts, though, be aware that IE 8 can still be applied with a manual visit to Microsoft's update site.

So, if you're worried about supporting IE 8 on your network, start your planning now. You can download the beta and start testing your applications, and apply the IE Blocker if the upgrade is not for you.

By: William Jones

Steve Ballmer Announces Availability of Windows 7 Beta

In his keynote address at the 2009 Consumer Electronics Show, Microsoft's Steve Ballmer announced the availability of a beta version of Windows 7. If you have an MSDN subscription or are a member of TechNet, you can download the Windows 7 beta right



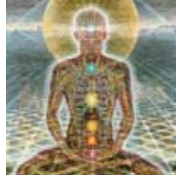
now. Presumably, there will be another area on the Microsoft site where the general public can download it at a later date.

By: Mark Kaelin

Words of Wisdom

The only thing to do with good advice is pass it on. It is never any use to oneself.

Oscar Wilde



He that gives good advice, builds with one hand; he that gives good counsel and example, builds with both; but he that gives good admonition and bad example, builds with one hand and pulls down with the other.

Francis Bacon, Sr.

Advice is what we ask for when we already know the answer but wish we didn't.

Erica Jong

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