## THE REST OF THE NEWS

### Open Source

*Is this is or is this ain't "Open Source"?  If the old saw is true that "the nice thing about standards is that there are so many of them," then open source licensing regimes must be **really** terrific. Notwithstanding the many variations on Open Source licensing, experts in the area believe that they, like the Supreme Court when it comes to pornography, "know it when they see it."   When it came to the terms upon which Microsoft was willing to make its new Sender ID anti-spam framework available to the industry, Open Source leaders were emphatic that they didn't like what they saw.*

*The first article below focuses on the terms that Microsoft proposed, and on the elements of those terms that open source experts view as being unacceptable.  One after another, multiple influential Open Source groups came out not only against the Sender ID terms, but also called upon the IETF to amend its policies to preclude what they viewed as unacceptably encumbered material from being incorporated into core Internet infrastructure.   Within a matter of days, the IETF agreed.  The last article below describes the final indignity:  it indicates that Sender ID isn't effective in thwarting Spam.*

**Open-Source Community Skeptical About Microsoft's Sender ID License**
**By: Steven J. Vaughan-Nichols**

**eWeek, August 26, 2004 --** Microsoft this month is moving forward with the developer implementation of its anti-spam Sender ID framework, but open-source advocates and mail vendors doubt whether the software giant's new proposed license meets open-source requirements. Sender ID has already   gained market support. Both ISPs, such as AOL, and mail software and   support companies, such as Cloudmark Inc. and Tumbleweed Communications Corp., have announced support for it. Microsoft has also announced that it will start using Sender ID for inbound e-mail to its hotmail.com, msn.com and microsoft.com domains in October. Despite this groundswell of commercial support, Microsoft's licensing requirements are incompatible with many open-source licenses, according to experts. This, in turn, means   that Sender ID couldn't be implemented in open-source mail applications.   ...Full Story

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**Apache Software Foundation Rejects Microsoft Patent License Agreement  for Sender ID.**

**The Cover Pages, September 3, 2004 --** An open letter from Apache Software Foundation (ASF) to the IETF MTA Authorization Records in DNS (MARID) Working Group announces the decision of ASF projects not to implement or deploy the IETF Sender ID specification under terms required by Microsoft's Patent License Agreement. The letter from Apache also expresses concern that "no company should be permitted IP rights over core Internet infrastructure" and urges the IETF to "revamp its IPR policies to ensure that the core Internet infrastructure remain unencumbered." …Full Story

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**Debian refuses to add Microsoft anti-spam technology**
**By: Matthew Broersma**

**TechWorld.com, September 6, 2004 --** The Debian operating system project    will not implement Microsoft's proposed Sender ID anti-spam specification under the current licensing terms, it has

announced, because they are not compatible with open-source licenses. Debian's rejection of Sender ID follows a similar statement from the Apache server project on Thursday and criticism from the maintainers of open-source projects such as Postfix, Exim and Courier. "We are concerned that no company should be permitted intellectual property rights over core Internet infrastructure," Debian's message said....Full Story

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**IETF deals Microsoft's e-mail proposal a setback**
**By: Paul Roberts**

**InfoWorld, September 14, 2004 --** A proposed technology for identifying the source of e-mail messages suffered a blow last week when a group within the Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF) established to study the proposal sent it back for more work, citing concerns over vague intellectual property claims made by Microsoft Corp. covering some of the technology. Members of the IETF's Mail Transfer Agent Authorization Records in Domain Name System (DNS) working group, also known as MARID, voted last week to not to proceed with standards documents for the Sender ID authentication technology that were submitted by Microsoft to the IETF for approval in June. ...Full Story

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**AOL Dumps Microsoft's Sender ID**
**By: Wayne Rash**

**eWeek, September 16, 2004 --** America Online Inc.'s announcement Wednesday that it would abandon its attempts to support Microsoft's Sender ID e-mail authentication standard are a serious setback for the Redmond, Wash., software company. "Given recent concerns expressed by the Internet Engineering Task Force [IETF], coupled with the tepid support for Sender ID in the open-source community, AOL has decided to move forward with SPF-only checking on inbound e-mail at this time," AOL spokesman Nicholas Graham said in a statement. AOL still will provide Sender ID information for outgoing mail so that its users can communicate with e-mail providers using that system, but that will be the limit of support for the standard. ...Full Story

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**Spammers using sender authentication too, study says**
**By: Paul Roberts**

**InfoWorld, August 31, 2004 --** New technology for identifying the sender of e-mail messages has not been widely adopted despite backing from software giant Microsoft Corp. and may not be effective at stopping unsolicited commercial email, otherwise known as spam, according to a survey by e-mail security company CipherTrust Inc. A check of approximately two million e-mail messages sent to CipherTrust customers between May and July showed that only about 5 percent of all incoming messages came from domains that published a valid sender authentication record using Sender Policy Framework (SPF) or a newer standard, backed by Microsoft, called Sender ID. ...Full Story

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*And then there's the other way: While Microsoft was finding out how not to contribute Open Source to the standards community, IBM was having better success. The Apache Foundation, which spurned Sender ID, was happy to be a co-recipient of speech recognition software from the computer giant (IBM's consortium spin-off, the Eclipse Foundation, was the other beneficiary).*

**IBM Contributes XML-Based Speech Software to Apache and Eclipse Open Source Projects.**

**The Cover Pages, September 14, 2004 --** At the SpeechTEK 2004 Conference IBM announced a major contribution of software to open source initiatives at the Apache Software Foundation and the Eclipse Foundation. The new software projects are intended to "spur the availability of speech-enabled

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applications by making it easier and more attractive for developers to build and add speech recognition capability in a standardized way. Supported by more than 20 key industry players from speech vendors to platform providers, the initiative is aimed at ending the battles over competing, proprietary specifications." An Eclipse Voice Tools Project will "focus on Voice Application tools in the JSP/J2EE space, based on W3C standards, so that these standards become dominant in voice application development. ...Full Story

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## Standards and Your Business

*Standards for the rest of us: Participating in standards development and early adoption of standards is usually the province of large companies that have the resources to dedicate to such efforts. The result is that such companies reap disproportionate benefits from influence and early adoption. RosettaNet has decided to promote the more rapid adoption of its work product by taking its offerings straight to the little guy, thereby doing well by doing good.*

**RosettaNet takes standards push to small firms**
**By: Winston Chai**

**CNET News.com, Singapore, September 17, 2004 --** RosettaNet, a consortium pushing to establish a universal e-business language, is hoping to broaden its appeal to smaller companies by slashing the costs of standards adoption. The consortium is looking for ways to make it easier and cheaper for businesses to automate the exchange of data, including information about purchase and delivery orders, inventory levels and other business matters. This effort will be spearheaded by RosettaNet's first architectural design and research facility outside the United States, which was officially unveiled here this week. ..Full Story

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*Anticipating a meta communications bill: The Holy Grail of consumer and business communications being held out to us today is VoIP, and the promise of satisfying all of our telecom needs over a single fat pipe. Pressed by vanishing margins and upstart competitors, the majors are getting on the bandwagon, even if the technology is not yet as reliable as one might hope. The following article describes a new protocol that promises to get us closer to the day when we can pay just one bill a month for all of our electronic needs (and have it all work, as well).*

**When Do We Start Slurping SIP**
**By: Beth Cohen**

**Wi-Fi Planet.com, August 31, 2004 --** Imagine if your Voice over IP (VoIP) (define) phone administration was as easy as using the Web. No more dropped connections, insecure sessions, lack of integration, or dependence on one vendor for systems. With Session Initiation Protocol (SIP), the long awaited promise of unified messaging may finally come true. No, SIP is not the latest in silly soft drinks; it is the latest emerging standard to address how to combine data, voice and mobility into one neat package. With its simple and integrated approach to session creation, SIP has the potential to transform how companies do business. ...Full Story

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*Yes, that's billions: From time to time, NIST publishes studies underlining the economic impact of standards – and the absence of standards. These studies underline the vast disparity between the extremely low cost of creating standards – which, after all, are created through volunteer, consensus based processes – and the savings that can obtain from well developed, widely deployed specifications. Here's another in the series, with an eye-popping number related simply to software interoperability standard deficiencies in a single, limited industry.*

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**Software Difficulties Cost Builders Billions**

**NIST Tech Beat, August 30, 2004 --** Inadequate software interoperability in the capital facilities industry cost the commercial, institutional and industrial building sectors $15.8 billion in 2002 in lost efficiency, according to a newly released study commissioned by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST). Conducted by RTI International (Research Triangle Park, N.C.) and the Logistics Management Institute (McLean, Va.), the report places a price tag on avoidance, mitigation and delay activities due to data-exchange problems. It also takes into account the cost of redundant paper management. The analysis, expected to benefit key stakeholders throughout the construction industry, breaks down data exchange-related losses for architects and engineers, general contractors, specialty fabricators and suppliers, and owners and operators at three different stages of a building&#8217;s life: ...Full Story

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## Who's Doing What to Whom

*What's a few billion dollars between enemies?  Few standards battles have been as fierce in recent years as the conflict that has been raging in the video player market.  The carnage focuses on the next generation DVD standard, and one camp (led by Sony) has been locked in mortal combat with the other (led by NEC and Toshiba), like Godzilla and Mothra in a Japanese monster movie.  In the latest development, a consortium led by Sony has bid almost $5 billion to win the auction of the MGM Studio video portfolio, in part because control over this large block of content may help turn the standards tide in favor of the Blu Ray standard favored by Sony.*

**With MGM, Sony Gains in Fight for New DVD Standard**
**By:  Ken Belson and Andrew Ross Sorkin**

**TechNewsWorld.com, September 19, 2004 --** The purchase of Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer by a group led by Sony (NYSE: SNE) will not only give the company an enormous film library but also considerable power in its fight to set the format for the next generation of digital video discs.  The transition to the new discs, which are not expected to be widely available until next year at the earliest, could generate billions of dollars in royalties to the developers of the technology that runs them.  Sony, as part of the Blue-ray Disc Association, a consortium of major electronics makers, is at the forefront of efforts to develop the new technological standard. As a major consumer electronics company, Sony could also reap the benefits of selling the new generation of disc players the new format would require. Sony's success in the standards battle is far from certain, though, because the rival HD DVD group, led by Toshiba and NEC (Nasdaq: NIPNY) , is championing its own format. ...Full Story

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## Web Services Update

*Business as usual: It's been a typically busy month in the Web Services standards neighborhood.  The following selection of news items includes a variety of stories that, together, provide a good picture of the various currents at work in this dynamic area, including:  the release of two more draft specifications by traditional partners BEA Systems and Microsoft and a supporting cast of other companies, independent of any standards body; the submission of another specification to the W3C by the same two partners and a different group of partners; and the release of a bouquet of specifications and schema by traditional consortia OASIS and the W3C, all developed through the traditional process.*

**WS-Enumeration and WS-Transfer Published as Web Services Messaging Specifications.**

**Cover Pages, September 17, 2004  --** Two new Web Services messaging specifications have been published under terms of co-development and joint authorship by BEA Systems, Computer Associates, Microsoft, Sonic Software, and Systinet. The documents have been released as-is, for review and evaluation only, with no further warrantees or representations. Web Service Enumeration (WS-Enumeration) "describes a general SOAP-based protocol for enumerating a sequence of XML elements that is suitable for traversing logs, message queues, or other linear information models. It brings

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enumeration capabilities to the WS-* suite of specifications, enabling an application to ask for items from a list of data that is held by a Web service. In this way, WS-Enumeration is useful for reading event logs, message queues, or other data collections." ...Full Story

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**OASIS WSRM TC Releases Web Services Reliable Messaging (WS-Reliability) Version 1.1.**

**The Cover Pages, September 10, 2004 --** The OASIS Web Services Reliable Messaging Technical Committee has published a milestone version of its Web Services Reliable Messaging (WS-Reliability) specification, including a prose document and four supporting XML schemas. WS-Reliability is a "SOAP-based specification that fulfills reliable messaging requirements critical to some applications of Web Services. It is needed because SOAP over HTTP is not sufficient when an application-level messaging protocol must also guarantee some level of reliability and security. Reliable Messaging in this context refers to "act of processing the set of transport-agnostic SOAP Features defined by WS-Reliability, which results in a protocol supporting quality of service features such as guaranteed delivery, duplicate message elimination, and message ordering. ...Full Story

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**Submission of WS-Addressing to W3C**

**The Cover Pages, August 27, 2004 --** The big news in the standards world this month was the highly anticipated submission of WS-Addressing to the W3C by BEA, IBM, Microsoft, SAP, and Sun. Furthermore, the specification was submitted in accordance with the W3C's strict intellectual property (IP) policy, turning over all copyrights to the W3C and explicitly waiving potential patent royalties and licensing fees. WS-Addressing is a critical specification for the current generation of extended WS-* specifications, since so many of them depend upon an addressing solution. WS-Addressing is also required for all but the simplest message exchange patterns (MEPs), defining a standard format for routing, reply, and error messages. MEPs such as those needed for publish/subscribe, event notification, and long running business processes need a standard for addressing. WS-Addressing provides mechanisms for specifying and correlating a message reply, and for defining a fault address. ...Full Story

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**World Wide Web Consortium Issues SSML 1.0 as a W3C Recommendation**

**W3C.org, September 8, 2004 --** Strengthening the voice of the Web, the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C) has published the Speech Synthesis Markup Language (SSML) 1.0 as a W3C Recommendation. SSML 1.0, a fundamental specification in the W3C Speech Interface Framework, elevates the role of high-quality synthesized speech in Web interactions. Application designers for mobile phones, personal digital assistants (PDAs), and a host of emerging technologies use SSML 1.0 to achieve both coarse- and fine-grain control of important aspects of speech synthesis, including pronunciation, volume, and pitch. Like its companion W3C Recommendations VoiceXML 2.0 and Speech Recognition Grammar Specification (SRGS) published by the W3C Voice Browser Working Group, SSML 1.0 is built for integration with other Web technologies and to promote interoperability across different synthesis-capable platforms. ...Full Story

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*Web Services are growing up: While the IT standards world in the past has often been known for efforts that have fizzled, it is becoming increasingly common that initiatives that meet with early skepticism rapidly move towards commercial reality. RFID is one example that we have been following where this has proven true, and Web Standards is another. The following article reviews the recent announcement by the Web Services Interoperability Organization that it has progressed three key profiles to "Final Material" status (in WS-I lingo, that means "We're done - go to it"). Analysts complemented WS-I for addressing concerns that may have kept some vendors from getting on the bus.*

**WS-I Rearchitects Basic Profile**
**By: Darryl K. Taft**

**eWeek.com, August 24, 2004 --** The Web Services Interoperability Organization, or WS-I, announced Tuesday the publication of its Basic Profile 1.1, Attachments Profile 1.0 and Simple SOAP Binding Profile 1.0 to Final Material status. The new WS-I profiles show that "Web services are finally growing up," said Ronald Schmelzer, an analyst with ZapThink LLC, of Waltham, Mass. "We have seen that companies have seemed to be hesitant to implement Web services and SOAs [service-oriented architectures] on a widespread basis until some of the major roadblocks, such as standards definition, have been cleared out of the way. Also, they are looking for signs of adoption by their customers, partners and software vendors. Now that the WS-I has taken the final step with their Basic Profile, they have eliminated one of the potential stumbling blocks, namely that of standards convergence."… Full Story

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## XML Update

*XML Everywhere: About the only standards topic to rival Web services and wireless for level of activity is the equally widespread and inexorable, but lower profile, march of new XML schema out of a myriad of venues. This month's crop of news includes notice not only of a new XML standard to manage human relations data, but an article that asks whether there's a limit to how far the trend should go.*

**The HR-XML Consortium Approves HR Metrics Data Interchange Standard**

**PR Newswire, Raleigh, N.C., August 31, 2004 --** A new standard designed to improve the management of HR metrics data has been approved by the more than 100 member organizations of the HR-XML Consortium. The standard provides an important tool for employers and HR solution providers wanting to access and integrate HR performance data from different computer systems. The HR-XML Consortium's Metrics Interchange Specification consists of a simple yet flexible XML schema capable of supporting a wide variety of integration scenarios. ...Full Story

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**XML: Too much of a good thing?**
**By: David Becker**

**ZDNet.com, September 7, 2004 --** Aside from that, it's hard to find an industry or interest that isn't taking advantage of the fast-growing standard for Web services and data exchange. In the six years since the main XML specification was first published, it's spawned hundreds of dialects, or schemas, benefiting everyone from butchers to bulldozer operators wishing to easily exchange information electronically. While some industry observers worry proliferation has gone too far, potentially creating new instances of the interoperability problems that XML was meant to solve, proponents say the explosion of schemas is a testament to the format's success. ...Full Story

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## Miscellaneous

*Who's doing what?? The most surprising news of the month was the announcement by Ericsson that it would no longer be supporting the Bluetooth wireless standard, which it had launched and nurtured for years. Despite the fact that after many years of hard slogging to windward, the standard is making steady inroads in various areas, Ericsson has decided to move on. According to the following article, the decision was motivated by a desire to direct efforts to higher margin opportunities.*

**Ericsson ditches Bluetooth**

**The Register, September 6, 2004 –** Ericsson's decision to pull the plug on its Bluetooth design and manufacturing activities do not sound a death knell for the short range wireless technology, but they do show that the standard has reached maturity with no obviously viable next generation. This means that innovators like Ericsson will turn to other technologies with greater market potential and Bluetooth, within a few years, will be confined to a few niches. Ericsson spun off its Bluetooth group, Technology Licensing, which invented the technology, in 2000....Full Story

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*New frontiers in standard setting: Notwithstanding the explosion of consortia in the ITC space, other disciplines have been slow to get on the bandwagon. Inevitably, however, all other aspects of life and commerce – from academia, education and health sciences to government – have become more and more dependent on IT infrastructure. Perhaps as a result, the concept of consensus-based standards, developed within a consortium structure, is beginning to find traction in these other disciplines. The following article focuses on one such extension, describing how the world of biology is exploring how traditional standards processes may be useful in the bioinformatics arena.*

**Committee Aims to Develop Bioinformatics Standards**
**By: M.L. Baker**

**eWeek, August 20, 2004 --** At a panel discussion on the last day of the IEEE-sponsored Computational Systems Biology Conference at Stanford University, researchers concluded that the standards-making process is painful and arduous, but many clearly felt that a standards project could foster efficiency and perhaps even reverse the rapid fragmentation of life sciences. Part of the purpose of the meeting was to gauge whether the relatively new field was ready for standards. Standards are already being developed, in an ad hoc fashion, within various pockets of the life sciences community. There is already considerable overlap in standards being codified by societies such as W3C, IUPAC, and BC; part of the committee's job will be to figure out what all the other groups are doing. The issues are sometimes as fundamental as developing a common language, according to Sylvia Spengler. For example, the same protein or gene could have different names in different communities, such as those that think about pathways, gene products, gene expression or gene sequences. ...Full Story

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## Intellectual Property

*That's some thicket you got there: Those who follow intellectual property matters are doubtless familiar with the phrase "patent thicket," which graphically describes the situation where a host of owners own a dense undergrowth of interlocking patents, making implementation of technology not only difficult, but at times prohibitively expensive for those that do not own patents of their own to offer in cross licensing arrangements that lower or eliminate the actual amount of money changing hands. The article below shows not only how dense such thickets can be, but how large the forest itself can become: it marks the fact that the ETSI database of known patents identified by their owners as being covered by ETSI patents has passed the 12,500 mark.*

**ETSI's IPR On-line Database exceeds 12,500 entries**

**ETSI Press Release, Sophia-Antipolis, France, September 1, 2004 --** 10 years after the adoption of the ETSI Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) Policy(1), the ETSI IPR on-line database now displays more than 12,500 entries(2) reflecting how the Institute is taking the pulse of innovation, as embraced by IPRs stemming from the research and development efforts of the Information & Communication Technology (ICT) industry. The ETSI IPR on-line database contains IPRs, especially patents and patent applications, which have been notified to ETSI as being essential, or potentially essential, to ETSI standards. Although the database relates only to those Information Statements and Licensing Declarations actually received by ETSI, and is therefore not necessarily exhaustive, there is no doubt that there is a lot of interest in it as the value of IPRs is increasingly apparent in the ICT domain. ...Full Story

## Standards and Society

*Now even your appliances will be talking behind your back: Much has been made of the coming "digital home,," but usually the focus has been on the owner commanding the appliances, rather than the appliances talking amongst themselves. The following articles focus on two component technology features of the digital home falling into place that partake of the latter. The first reports on a new standard that will allow devices to "talk" to each other, while the second examines another standard that will help them decide what to say. The suite of such standards surrounding the digital home will grow as more and more wirelessly enabled devices take their place all around us. (We'll probably be happier not knowing what they're saying.)*

**New DECT standard makes "machines" talk to users**

**ETSI Press Release, Sophia-Antipolis, France, September 6, 2004 --** ETSI has published a new important Digital Enhanced Cordless Telecommunications (DECT(tm)) standard. The DECT; Open Data Access Profile (ODAP) specification (TS 102 342) builds upon the tremendous success of the DECT GAP (Generic Access Profile) standard (EN 300 444), which has been implemented in 99% of the DECT products on the market today. ODAP aims at providing the means to include all kinds of "things" in to the communication process that surround us at home and at work. ODAP allows the creation of an accessories market for alarms, sensors and similar devices, which can be connected through a DECT base station to users and/or servers in either a home or industrial environment. This enables home applications such as automatic voice calling or messaging when a fire or smoke alarm goes off, as well as, remote control for home appliances and this is just a start. ...Full Story

**Wireless sensor networks looking to Zigbee Alliance**
**By: Tom Krazit**

**InfoWorld, August 18, 2004 --** Imagine a golf course that can sense rainfall, and adjust the automatic sprinkler system to delay a scheduled watering session or focus on parts of the course that didn't get as much rain as others. Or a hotel that can detect when a room is vacant, and turn off the heating or cooling systems in that room to save energy. Later this year, vendors will start releasing products based on a wireless standard called Zigbee that enable these types of sensor networks. The Zigbee Alliance plans to certify products with a Zigbee logo to ensure that products from different vendors are interoperable and easy to manage, said Bob Heile, chairman of the Zigbee Alliance, at a briefing for reporters and analysts at the Zigbee Alliance Member Meeting in Boston Wednesday....Full Story

*It had to happen (bummer): What do you get when you add a better screen and faster data transfer to your kid's web-enabled cellphone? A pocket pornography browsing device, of course. While the technical challenges to filtering are not easy, governments in multiple countries are passing laws to require cellphone operators to take action to filter what is being pushed across the telephone lines to under-age mobile phone users.*

**Wireless: Dial-up pornography spurs search for filters**
**By: Jennifer L. Schenker**

**IHT, Paris, August 23, 2004 --** Now that cellphones are offering Web access on a par with services offered via personal computers, the mobile phone sector is grappling with the same thorny question faced by Internet providers in the mid-1990s: how to safeguard children while protecting civil liberties. Governments in Japan, Germany, Australia and Taiwan are proposing or passing legislation that requires mobile operators to protect minors from pornographic or violent content on phones and to put controls on cellular chat and dating services. Cellphone operators in Britain have voluntarily adopted a code of conduct and agreed to implement filtering systems by year-end. ...Full Story

*Right. Now give me that one more time?  When you're all alone, do you admit to yourself that you still don't have the foggiest notion what the  Semantic Web" really is?   Here's your chance to gain enlightenment while gaining the information to push for your favorite candidate in an election year, and learn about Web services, all at the same time.  The following article offers a chance to watch the author create a real-life example of the Semantic Web in action, using the United States Government as the source of data and the object of the exercise.*

**Screenscraping the Senate**
**By: Paul Ford**

**XML.com, September 1, 2004  --** The United States government and the Semantic Web are a perfect match: imagine all of those senators and representatives, each query-able by age, party affiliation, bills proposed, committee membership, and voting record.  For the last few years, I've wanted to collect as much data on the U.S. government as I could, convert it to RDF, and build a site and a web service that make it possible to explore that data.  This will be my goal over the next year, and I'll document my progress here on XML.com.  I am aware that I am reinventing the wheel with this project. Several other sites attempt to map the government, most notably the Open Government Information Awareness project....Full Story

## New Initiatives

***Let's all get small:***  *As the wireless telephone becomes the new killer platform, a host of traditional applications, services and enabling technology must adapt to the unique characteristics of mobile devices:  small screens, slow date transfer speeds (for now), limited battery power (until fuel cells become readily available), and fewer and more cumbersome controls.   But the market is huge, innovation is proceeding at a breakneck pace, and those with the most skin in the game are scrambling to form the alliances and launch the initiatives that will be needed to provide users what they want  - and seem anxious to pay for.  The following article, which focuses on Java adaptation, is only one of this month's developments in this area.*

**Vodafone Push for Mobile Java Standards**
**By: John Blau**

**InfoWorld, August 26, 2004  --** The world's largest mobile phone manufacturer and Europe's largest wireless operator have launched an initiative to simplify Java standards for mobile devices in a move aimed to help developers create software for multiple Java-enabled devices, thus providing users with a wider choice of Java-based applications.  Under the initiative, Nokia Corp. and Vodafone Group PLC hope to drive the development of specifications for an open standards-based mobile Java services architecture.  The group intends to establish a number of new component Java Specification Requests and clarifications to existing specifications in a move to define a consistent Java API services architecture, according to the companies.  This unified services architecture, they said, will enable Java-based applications to run on mobile devices from multiple vendors.  The objectives and responsibilities of the unified mobile Java services architecture will be aligned and coordinated with several organizations, such as the OSGIi Alliance, the Open Mobile Alliance, the Open Mobile Terminal Platform and the World Wide Web Consortium....Full Story

## Story Updates

***Y'er out!***  *In the first several innings, tiny Eolas had scored impressively against Microsoft in its legal patent battle.  But later in the game, Microsoft came back strong.  Since our last issue, Eolas struck out*

**Microsoft Wins Again in Eolas Patent Dispute**
**By: Paul Festa**

**CNET News.com, August 18, 2004 --** The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office has handed Microsoft a second victory in its dispute with Eolas, rejecting browser patent claims that could roil the Web if upheld. The patent in question, owned by the University of California and licensed exclusively to its Eolas software spin-off, describes the way a Web browser opens third-party applications, or "plug-ins," within the browser. The decision is a big victory for the software giant and another setback for Eolas, which claimed the rights to the way browsers open third-party applications. Eolas has at least one more opportunity to argue its case. Patents and copyrights have been taking on a higher profile in the software industry in recent months. The issue is especially contentious in the open-source arena, where the Linux operating system has become embroiled in a number of intellectual-property disputes….Full Story

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*If it's good enough for Tom Ridge…In our July issue of this year (Open Source - Coming of Age) www.consortiuminfo.org/bulletins/aug04.php we looked into what the open source process still needs to accomplish before its products become ubiquitous. While there are some areas where real issues exist (e.g., adequate support for commercial users and complete enough feature sets for given usages), part of the problem is still perception. Telecom carriers, which have to date shied away from Linux, might find the first article below heartening: it focuses on the increasingly wide government usage of a Emergency Response system that relies on four well-tested open source elements; Linux, Apache, MySQL and PHP. The second article shows how open source and traditional standards must work together to achieve solutions: when the Emergency Broadcast System was launched over 50 years ago, radios were the only delivery device that most people owned and listened to. Today, more people are spending more time on line, and accessing audio and video by that means as well. The result? They're spending less time in front of the tube and listening to the radio. The solution includes CAP - the Common Alerting Protocol, an OASIS standard.*

**LAMP is at the heart of Emergency Response Network Systems and is saving lives.**

**Linux Journal, August 20, 2004 --** Like many government contractors, the provider of ERN (Emergency Response Network) Systems maintains a low profile. When you ask the CEO, Jo Balderas, for references she politely says, "the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Department of Public Safety and the Department of Homeland Security." That's quite an impressive list, and it represents only a few of the company's clients. When you ask for a technology snapshot Jo says, "currently we use an enterprise open-source software stack known as LAMP (Linux, Apache, MySQL and PHP). We also use an appliance to support rapid deployment and to minimize total cost of ownership. Our roadmap has us integrating the OASIS Common Alerting Protocol (CAP) version 1.0 and Justice XML standards within six months." ...Full Story

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**FCC : Alert system so last century**
**By Dibya Sarkar**

**www.fcw.com, Aug. 23, 2004** -- Federal Communications Commission officials said they intend to correct deficiencies in the nation's emergency warning capability, with the support of industry and nonprofit groups whose leaders say they have sought the FCC's attention on the matter for several years. Critics of the Emergency Alert System said the commissioners' Aug. 12 notice in the Federal Register of proposed rulemaking is the first significant federal step in years to create an effective nationwide system for warning the public of emergencies…. Lucia said one technical solution under consideration is the Common Alerting Protocol (CAP), a nonproprietary data interchange format that can simultaneously transmit emergency alerts through different communication networks. The Organization for the

Advancement of Structured Information Standards, an international standards body, has adopted CAP as a standard….<u>Full Story</u>

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## Standards are *Serious* (Right?)

***Show me your cards:*** *If you thought that games weren't serious, take a trip to Las Vegas sometime and imagine the cash flow. Not surprisingly, casino owners play their business cards pretty close to the chest, and it has apparently taken a long time for open standards to make their way into the back room. But now, according to the following article, you don't have to be a high roller any more to be able to play at the standards table.*

**New Policy Allows Immediate, Widespread Adoption of Groundbreaking Standards LAS**

**PRNewswire, Las Vegas,, August 26, 2004 -** The Gaming Standards Association (GSA) has announced a new policy that would allow non-GSA members to license GSA's groundbreaking standards. The policy takes effect immediately and opens the door for virtually instant, global adoption of GSA's protocol standards. The policy applies to all GSA standards, including the Best of Breed (BOB) and the System-to-System (S2S) standards. Previously, GSA's standards were available to all members, including supporting members. The new policy allows non-member companies to license any or all of GSA's standards. GSA Board President Gregg Solomon said, "This is a landmark decision in the history of the gaming industry. What this means is, starting right now, companies around the world can license and begin implementing protocol standards immediately. That is to say, the entire industry has now moved on past the old days of expending resources and development on company-specific protocols to a new era, where creativity in product development can flourish, moved forward by global standards."