RFID security choices

We can't be required to make security and privacy choices for each RFID device. There will be tens, hundreds, and eventually thousands of RFID chips in our possession. We have to have a way of controlling access in a single choice.

Sounds like a job for a general-purpose computer.

Replicating rapid prototyper

"RepRap will make plastic, ceramic, or metal parts, and is itself made from plastic parts, so it will be able to make copies of itself. It is a three-axis robot that moves several material extruders. These extruders produce fine filaments of their working material with a paste-like consistency. If RepRap were making a plastic cone, it would use its plastic extruder to lay down a quickly-hardening 0.5mm filament of molten plastic, drawing a filled-in disc. It would then raise the plastic extrusion head and draw the next layer (a smaller filled disc) on top of the first, repeating the process until it completed the cone. To make an inverted cone it would also lay down a support material under the overhanging parts. The support would be removed when the cone was complete. Conductors can be intermixed with the plastic to form electronic circuits - in 3D even!"

Lost luggage

What happens to lost luggage? It gets auctioned off.

Magic around muggles

The magic around muggles is ubiquitous; they don't see it. Wizards are trying to save (or destroy) the world.

Fused deposition modeling

The network is down right now so I can't double-check, but the name to look for is Professor Adrian Bowyer.

Open-sourced 3D printer instructions on previous post, currently runs about $400 for the printer and 30 cents per cubic inch or less for the plastic. Also, look at Darwin.

What happens to the supply chain when many things can be "printed" when they're needed?

When is a joke funny?

When a presenter puts up a list of points, where the last one is a joke, when do you laugh? Immediately, when you read that point? Or when the presenter finally gets to it?

It seems to me that there is always a small embarrassed laugh at first, and then when the presenter gets to it everyone else laughs. Slow readers or something's only funny if we have feedback that other people also think it's funny.

Python not feeling lucky

Why does the python documentation site rank so poorly in Google searches? I can never get the doc page for a python method or function when I google it.

For example, "python hasattr" brings up lots of people talking about it, and why it ought to have been handled differently, but not the actual documentation for that function.

I see: it does show up on the front page, but with a generic title. Each function is listed in a single page. This contrasts with, say, a search for "php file_exists" where each function gets its own page and ends up being very highly ranked (the first item in the list in this case).

Home for retired robots

They buy decommissioned industrial robots, and reprogram them.

Provigil

Military study: gave Provigil to soldiers every eight hours for 72 hours; at the end their reactions and perceptions were better than at the beginning.

Whatever diseases it is "on shelf" for, people are beginning to get more of.

Another drug: tans, reduces weight, and increases libido. "The company is desperately looking for a disease it treats. We have no structure in our society for people who want to play with these drugs."

More about E4X

RSS brings back users

Anything that changes is a candidate for an RSS feed. It reminds users to come back by showing them that there is new stuff there, extremely important for social services that need a critical mass of users.

Just added a link

So this turns out to be pretty easy to modify live.

Electrical sixth sense

Implanting rare earth magnet in finger tip. Sort of vibrates when in electrical fields.

Also, picking up small pieces of metal is a good party trick.

Could sense live wires from non-live wires. Sense swap just before computer slow-downs.

Still a sheathing problem: if the sheath is breached, it will infect. Can't get MRIs. "The quick way of getting this out of my body is to walk near an MRI."

Even if it is removed, she might not be able to, because when it unsheathed, it also broke apart.

Companies still hate the web

Every year some major company tries to convince us not to use web browsers and stateless interactions. This year, it's Adobe with Apollo. Instead of having a browser that connects to lots of sites, it appears to be a vision of lots of applications each tied to a specific site.

Weeping Cory

"I come from a family of weepy European Jews."—Cory Doctorow

Seven year itch

Google expects their solar panel install to pay for itself in 7 and a half years.

Magic Ingredients of games

Where you are should matter. Different places should result in different scenarios. Topology should affect the outcome.

When you came there should matter. What you did before should matter. Never start an interaction without context. Preparation matters.

How you make the choice should matter and be repeatable. Skill should matter. But there must also be variation in results.

What: There should be a range of choices and the choice should matter. Things people do should apply to multiple challenges. A "verb" is a hammer. Players need lots of kinds of nails.

With: The tools you use should matter. There are lots of kinds of hammers. Multiple tools should work, and they should work in different ways.

For: You need feedback. How well you did should matter. A game that has only one outcome is boring. Variable feedback keeps things lively. There should be more than one outcome even to success. Sometimes success is to be presented with a greater challenge. Other times, a pleasant surprise. When this happens, it should be highly visible--to everyone!

Few: Drive users to challenges at the edge of their ability. Bottomfeeding (low risk activity for high reward) is bad for fun (killing thousands of ants).

Failure: It is important for games to tell you that you failed. Which must also have consequences.

The core of games is competition. As soon as you give people a ladder to climb, they will climb it.

The Wealth of Networks

Look up this book. Like Rise of the Trading State or Wealth of Cities?

Professor Benkler

Animism

People know that (software, smart object) aren't an animal, but they treat them that way.

However, animism is an effect, not a design guideline.

Testing haml

Turk and Deep Blue

Magic is more believable then technology. The mechanical turk was too small to hold a human, so it must be real. And Deep Blue is big enough to hold several chessmasters.

Magicians know that they have to be believable to be believable. Engineers don't always recognize this.

E4X

Javascript can handle XML as if it were a variable?

var person=Jerry

Most people don't give it a try

So, he hasn't heard of anyone who doesn't like it... most people don't try it.

Downloads of Madness

For cute Internet/digital restrictions parallel, see Mountains of Madness, bottom of page 71.

Gen C products

We want remote control teddy bears.

Magic is already the metaphor

The problem with magic as a metaphor is that people already use it. Many people see copy and paste as magic, and the person who knows how to use it as a magician.

Business of false scarcity

Cory Doctorow: A business based on a false scarcity will necessarily fail today.

Persistent technology

The conference is now over; we're all in the foyer eating three different kinds of popcorn and caramel apples (both an emergent technology that keeps on giving long after you've finished with it). When I'm done making the rounds I'll head to Record City and see if they have any new vinyl in.

Some technology is also persistent, staying alive long after you would have expected it to (and some would wish it to) disappear. Technology can make emotional connections while providing functional advancement.

Some technologies endure long after official support disappears. And despite what technology providers sometimes seem to think, durability is functional. Technology doesn't really work unless it also works next year.

Gonzo Blogging

This is true Gonzo blogging: once a post is in the system, it doesn't come out, and it doesn't get changed.

Whether that frees or paralyzes remains to be seen.

Art of illusion

3D modeller, renderer, and raytracer.

Games are made of games

Games are made out of games. You have the big game and then lots of big games you play inside of it. (Raph Koster)

Frogger: crossing the road, hopping on logs, etc.

It's games all the way down: until you reach the interface. Hopefully you can't fail at that. This is very important. If the interface is a game, then it isn't the interface. If you can't press the button, that's not fun, it's frustrating.

Games are choices

Games are about making choices through some sort of interface.

Pathologizing normality

When we create medical procedures to improve things, we feel a need to pathologize the current, and relatively normal, thing we're changing: stomachs, wrinkles, breasts.

"Anti-depressants required pathologizing grief. Stomach staples required pathologizing obesity."

Once we pathologize it, we're allowed to remedy it.

Just ask Chris Rock

Yahoo: It's good to be a hacker. It's bad to be a cracker.

In the gallery

Most of the sessions are held right in front in the foyer; I've avoided the gallery because it's off in the middle of nowhere and doesn't leave time to get to other sessions afterwards.

I've been assuming they know this and put only the unpopular sessions in the gallery—it's a small space. But this period the best session is clearly in the gallery; "Lessons Learned in Scaling and Building Social Systems" is standing-room only, though it'd be spread out and empty in any of the other rooms.

Sufficiently advanced magic

We have a tendency to think that any magic which is difficult to understand must have a technological method.

The Autonomous Lamp

What if our adjustable lamp were crossed with a cat?

Purposeful Paralysis

If you look far enough into the future, you can always find an excuse for not doing the right thing.

Something new under the sun?

"Every SIN is unique."

The Most Toys

He who dies with the most toys is a geek? "I know I'm still okay as long as my mom has more sewing machines than I have computers."

Throw Me a Coke

No coke this year. We do have Microsoft and Adobe, and some guy charged with defending consumer rights who sounded more like Marc Antony praising Caesar’s death.

Lasik and steroids

Athletes are getting Lasik to increase their vision to better than normal.

Meat in any shape you want

If you can grow meat in a test tube in any shape you want, what does that mean? (Matt Webb)

Generation C

Defined by their community. I.e., The Internet is a word processor for your social life. We expect to be able to edit our communities.

No Second Chances

Welcome to the blog of the escalator.

hash your passwords

"A pet peeve of mine is when I sign up for a site" and they can then send it to me if I forget it. They can't do that unless they've saved the password in plaintext. Never do that!

"This is both security and privacy."

Ubiquitous Computing

UC is today where the web was in 1992? (Mike Kuniavsky)

Turning HTML into Python

The Haml template language takes readable HTML and turns it into a Python-like, indentation-required language that combines the worst features of Python with the worst features of HTML.

Maybe it will be more readable when he's finished it.

data retention and warrants

Wesabe appears to want to safeguard our data partially because it's a pain to have to collect the data on a warrant. If they don't store the data, they don't have to spend time and resources handing it over. So they scrub any identifying data that they don't specifically need.

IT professionals as wizard advisors

People go to technology to get things done. She's taking a whole bunch of time talking about a hetero-normal society just to say that people use technology not for technology's sake, but to meet other goals.

People want friends, sex, money, leisure, family, etc.

What is body hacking?

"Acting on yourself, with or without assistance, to enhance the function of your body or your perceptions."

Not to treat, but to enhance.

Doesn't include street drugs. "Street drugs have been done to death."

"If you can't open it, you don't own it."

(Quinn Norton)

Magic vs. Technology

We've gone from Magic IS technology (magic is what we do to make things happen, using recipes and scripts), through magic AGAINST technology (where technology and magic is at odds), to technology is magic (where technology, as far as most people are concerned, is magic and has no reality).

no marketing but the product itself

For social services, the product itself is likely to be their first introduction. "Build something both useful and functional and appears to be the thing that they are looking for."

Show, rather than tell.

Too many people, too little time

That feature was too slow, so we had to take it down. We've found a way to make it ten times faster, but now we have a hundred times as many users.

Mountains of Madness

So that was the bottom of page 67, not 71. Since I'm about to start reading again, here it is:

"These vertebrates, as well as an infinity of other life forms—animal and vegetable, marine, terrestrial, and aërial—were the products of unguided evolution acting on life cells made by the Old Ones, but escaping beyond their radius of attention. They had been suffered to develop unchecked because they had not come in conflict with the dominant beings. Bothersome forms, of course, were mechanically exterminated."

Adobe's gamers

"This is going to be a complete hack-mastery of the UI."

Between a hard drive and a RAM place

Companies looking for "in-between" memory that is faster than hard drives, but less expensive than RAM. Spintronics from IBM, for example.

a different kind of attacker

"Protects against attackers and law enforcement (another kind of attacker)."

Google ready for the end of the world

If a Stephen King-like future ever happens, Google is ready. Not only have they already been buying local products (food, etc) but they have covered all available roof space with solar panels, including building extra carports just so they'd have room for more solar panels. This gives them 1.6 Megawatts, enough for 30% of their peak power.

I'll bet they have a shooting range too. If they ever get nuclear capability they'll be their own nation.

A dystopian mess

Because there are no social guidelines for body hacking, this is a big mess. The only social guidelines are firewalls; we have no way of dealing with things once they get through the firewall.

People want advantages. "We either create a non-medical market for human alteration, or back room enhancements for the poor, and travel for the rich."

And what about professional coercion? You have to have this or you can't do your job as well as the person who does have it.

"As it gets better, it gets more dystopian. What would you transgress for?"

Melotan, also home surgery

That last one was "melotan".

To make this post useful, here is the elective home surgery FAQ.

assume successful attacks

Security is at least two steps: stopping attacks from being successful, and minimizing the harm if an attack is successful.

It is critical that you assume that you will be successfully attacked, and use techniques to minimize the harm when you are attacked: hashing passwords, hashing data based on the password, walling unrelated data off from each other, scrub logs, etc.

Data as pollution

Bruce Schneier: data is the pollution of the information age; bad data is canonical, as you know if you've been blocked getting on a plane.

Sloppy programming

IBM’s Koala scripting “language” pushes “programming by demonstration” and “sloppy programming”, that is “users create scripts by demonstrating what they should do”, and “script representation is both human and machine understandable”.

It’s a lot like the original design considerations for AppleScript; it will be interesting to see if they can add good scripting functionality that is still human readable.

No Sense of Place

One of the conflicts between generations and in the minds of younger generations is the lack of a sense of place, or at least the lack of one that their parents understand.

This comes courtesy of combining Danah Boyd’s hetero-normative anti-corporate shareholder-unaware world, combined with Joshua Meyrowitz.