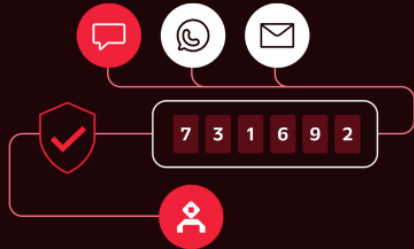


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Computerworld Horizon Awards 2006 Honorees

Feature

Aug 21, 2006 • 16 mins



The Computerworld Horizon Awards were established last year to alert readers to especially cutting-edge technologies from research labs and companies that are "on the horizon." The 2006 winners and

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Freezing devices and short battery life don't hit everyone equally.



The Computerworld Horizon Awards were established last year to alert readers to especially cutting-edge technologies from research labs and companies that are “on the horizon.” The 2006 winners and honorable mentions are presented here in alphabetical order.

Winners

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goML: Unlocking the promised potential of generative AI

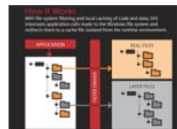
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Altiris Software Virtualization Solution (SVS) Altiris Inc.
www.altiris.com More information:
www.altiris.com/Products/SoftwareVirtualizationSolution.aspx
Video demo: juice.altiris.com/node/470 Developers: Randy Cook and Jared Blaser

Team photo: First row, from left to right: Dale Bethers, Mark Killgore and Randy Cook. Second row, from left to right: Jeremy Hurren and Mike Gilson



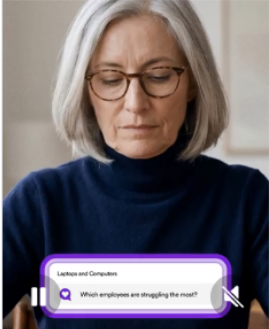
With file-system filtering and local caching of code and data, SVS intercepts application calls made to the Windows file system and redirects them to a cache file isolated from the runtime environment. (Click image to see larger view)

Over time, adding and removing applications degrades performance and makes computers unstable. When multiplied by the number of computers and applications in use, these problems increase IT support costs and reduce employee productivity. Altiris SVS eliminates application conflicts and protects the operating system from being corrupted, provides an on/off capability so applications can be made instantly available or unavailable, and allows IT staff to reset an application back to “just installed” state without redeploying the application. **See Full Story, On/Off Switch For Software**

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Freezing devices and short battery life don't hit everyone equally. HappySignals surfaces which employee segments struggles the most with device issues — before it becomes a retention problem.



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IT Skills and Training Markets

eliminates application conflicts and protects the operating system from being corrupted, provides an on/off capability so applications can be made instantly available or unavailable, and allows IT staff to reset an application back to “just installed” state without redeploying the application. [See Full Story](#), [On/Off Switch For Software](#)

BioPassword Internet Edition BioPassword Inc.
www.biopassword.com More information:
www.biopassword.com/internet-authentication-software.php
<http://www.biopassword.com/network-authentication-software.php> Video demo: www.biopassword.com/resources/watch.php Developers: Artur Babayan, Brian O’Neill, Bobby Bhasin, Chaz Spahn, Danny DeSousa, Jagadeesan Baskar, Jared Pfost, John Stacy, Jonathan (Hong) Wang, Kulwinder Deol, Lensey Hau, Mark Gamache, Mechthild Kellas-Dicks, Mike Stewart, Seshadri Mani and Steve Comminos

get picky on tech skills
amid AI disruption

By Agam Shah
May 11, 2026 • 4 mins

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Manage User Settings
Authentication Activity
Enrollment Activity
Add New User

USER/NAME	DATE	STATUS/REASON	SCORE	LOG STATUS
david	4/11/2006	35	41	Success
david	4/11/2006	35	39	Success
david	4/11/2006	35	68	Success
mark	4/11/2006	35	51	Success
mark	4/11/2006	35	41	Success
mark	4/11/2006	35	48	Success
mark	4/11/2006	35	59	Success
mark	4/11/2006	35	55	Success

Previous | Next

Refresh Clear Log

BioPassword
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Enrollment Method: Immediate
Console version: 3.0.0.7

BioPassword provides a sample application (shown above) that gives organizations a console to see the biometric score of user log-on attempts.

BioPassword is two-factor authentication software based on the behavioral biometric of keystroke dynamics. While the mathematical foundation of keystroke dynamics is complicated, the science itself is rooted in behavioral characteristics and patterns first identified by telegraph operators in the 1930s. Keystroke dynamics is based on the distinctive characteristics found in typed sequences of characters. This includes how long a person holds a key and the elapsed time between successive keystrokes. BioPassword combines the user’s standard log-in credentials and his unique typing rhythm. [See Full Story](#), [Keystroke Analyzer](#)

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Business Insights Workbench IBM Almaden Research Center
www.almaden.ibm.com More information:
www.research.ibm.com/biworkbench Key developer: Jeffrey Kreulen



Team photo: Back row, from left to right: Bin He, W. Scott Spangler and Jeffrey Kreulen. Front row, from left to right: Amit Behal, James Rhodes, Ying Chen and Ana Lelescu. Not pictured: Stephen Boyer and Larry Proctor

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Business Insights Workbench combines data warehousing and text mining technologies in one system, using IBM's Unstructured Information Management Architecture as the underlying framework. Its capabilities include search on unstructured text and metadata; information extraction and clustering; and categorization, which automatically creates, edits, visualizes and applies taxonomies. It also features statistical analysis, visualization in an extensible variety of plots and graphs, and fact extraction/links, which can link documents together through relationships with terms, phrases and metadata. **See Full Story, [Smarter Search](#)**

Duet SAP AG, Microsoft Corp. www.duet.com More information:
www.sap.com/duet <https://office.microsoft.com/duet> Demos:
www.duet.com/Products/ProductDemos/tbid/155/Default.aspx#

documents together through relationships with terms, phrases and metadata. **See Full Story, [Smarter Search](#)**

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www.sap.com/duet <https://office.microsoft.com/duet> Demos:
www.duet.com/Products/ProductDemos/tabid/155/Default.aspx#
Developers: Dennis Moore, Udo Waibel, Nir Kol and Parichay Saxena



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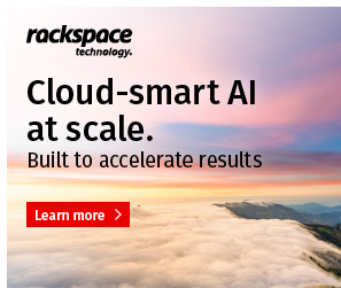
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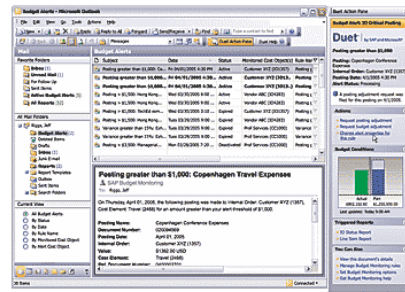
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Duet development team: From left to right, top row: Eric Wood, Nir Kol, Armando Chavez and Udo Waibel. Middle row: Irene Ivashenko, Deepak Saldanha and Christian Bjoernsen. Bottom row: Narayan



Duet development team: From left to right, top row: Eric Wood, Nir Kol, Armando Chavez and Udo Waibel. Middle row: Irene Ivashenko, Deepak Saldanha and Christian Bjoernsen. Bottom row: Narayan Nayar, Himanshu Pande and Anisha Dadhia. Not pictured: Geff Gilligan



From within Microsoft Outlook, a user is given business alerts. This example shows an alert triggered by a budget posting that exceeded a user-set threshold. The user can then take corrective action as needed.

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Duet software, jointly developed, marketed and supported by SAP and Microsoft, enables a company's employees to interact with SAP business processes and data via the familiar Microsoft Office environment. Built as a composite application, Duet works with the SAP NetWeaver platform and Microsoft's .Net framework to extend select mySAP processes and information into Office, simplifying the way information workers access SAP applications. **See Full Story, Glue for SAP And Office**

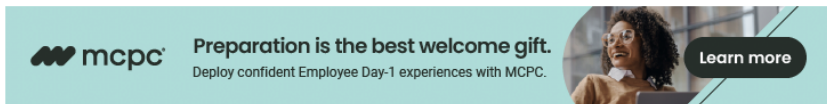
HyperOffice HyperOffice www.hyperoffice.com Video demo: www.hyperoffice.com/hypermain/Demos.cfm Developer: Drew Morris

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HyperOffice synchronizes contacts, calendars and tasks in a secure extranet where users can collaborate with suppliers and contractors.

HyperOffice provides Web-based software tools that make it easier for small-business owners, employees, clients, business partners and suppliers to work together as a team, plan projects, share and edit documents, schedule meetings, and stay connected via e-mail and any Web browser, from any computer. HyperOffice provides users with a hosted office environment including e-mail, document management, calendar, project management and collaboration at a cost of around \$7 per user per month. While the end users would still have their own desktop applications, it relieves the office of having to purchase and support a server and collaboration software. It can be customized to incorporate links to other software the customer uses. [See Full Story](#), [Collaboration in a Box](#)

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Oasys, Opinion Analysis System University of Maryland, Institute of Advanced Computer Studies <https://umiacs.umd.edu/> Developer: V.S. Subrahmanian, professor of computer science at the University of Maryland, Institute of Advanced Computer Studies

V.S. Subrahmanian, professor of computer science at the University of Maryland, Institute of Advanced Computer Studies

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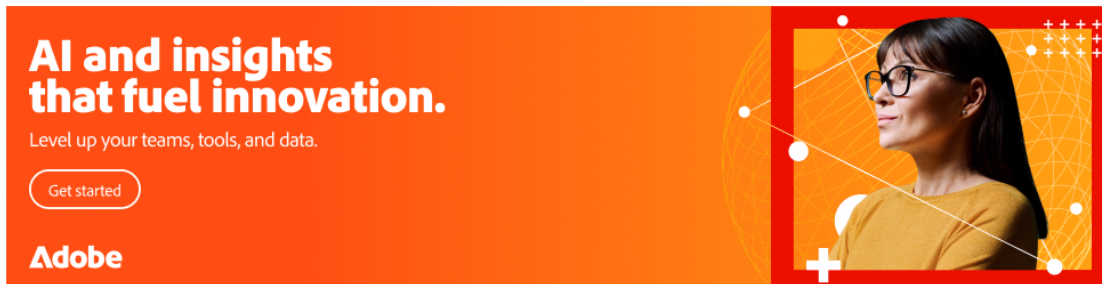
Oasys produces a graph that shows a timeline and the intensity of opinion about a particular topic (in this case, Pakistani leader Pervez "Musharraf").

Oasys produces a graph that shows a timeline and the intensity of opinion about a particular topic (in this case, Pakistani leader Pervez “Musharraf”).

The Opinion Analysis System, or Oasys, allows users to type in a topic or keyword, and the system accesses real-time news data from 18 newspapers from four countries (the U.S., Italy, Spain and Pakistan) in three languages (English, Spanish and Italian). The system produces a graph that shows a timeline and the changes in intensity of opinion. That intensity level is based on a hybrid statistical, linguistic and learning algorithms from human subjects and has been experimentally validated. The system produces four-colored graphs — each color depicts the intensity of opinion in a different country. By clicking on the points on the graph, users can see which sources had articles on the topic on that day, and what their opinions were. **See Full Story, Opinion Thermometer**

PwdHash (Password Hash) Stanford University Department of Computer Science <https://cs.stanford.edu> More information: https://soe.stanford.edu/research/profile_infotech_mitchell.html Developers: Stanford University Professor John Mitchell, Associate Prof. Dan Boneh, and students Blake Ross, Collin Jackson and Nick Miyake

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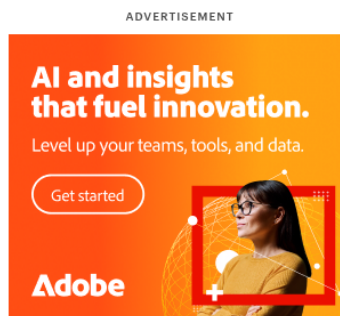
Stanford University professors Dan Boneh (left) and John Mitchell, developers of Password Hash. Image Credit: Andy Freeberg

“Since Internet users often use the same password at many Web sites, a phishing attack on one site will expose their passwords at many other sites,” says Dan Boneh, a Stanford associate professor of computer science and electrical engineering. Boneh and professor John Mitchell’s answer to this problem is PwdHash, a plug-in to popular Web browsers that prevents phishing sites from getting what they want. PwdHash works behind the scenes to irreversibly encrypt a user’s password in a way that is unique for every Web site. Hashing” a password means combining the typed password and the site’s domain name in an algorithm that outputs a unique password that bears no traceable resemblance to the typed one. When a potential phishing victim unwittingly enters his eBay password at a



what they want. PwdHash works behind the scenes to irreversibly encrypt a user's password in a way that is unique for every Web site. Hashing a password means combining the typed password and the site's domain name in an algorithm that outputs a unique password that bears no traceable resemblance to the typed one. When a potential phishing victim unwittingly enters his eBay password at a phony site posing as eBay, for example, PwdHash generates a new password for the phisher's site. To tell PwdHash to do the hashing, the user only has to type "@@" or the F2 key before typing the password. **See Full Story, Phish Fighter**

Splunk Splunk Inc. www.splunk.com Developers: Rob Das, Rory Greene, Brian Murphy, David Carasso, Stephen Sorkin, Brad Hall, Andre Stechert, Amritpal Bath, Ivan Tam, Will Hayes, Kim Wallace, Jef Bekes, Nick Mealy, Johnvey Hwang, Ben Strawbridge, Ben Scharp and Erik Swan



The development team behind Splunk (from left to right): Chief Technology Officer Erik Swan, CEO Michael Baum and Chief Architect Rob Das. Image Credit: Andy Freeberg

Splunk uses powerful algorithms to automatically organize any type of IT data into events without source-specific parsing or mapping. It then classifies these events and discovers relationships between events of different kinds. Events are indexed by time, terms and relationships. This search-based software enables system administrators to navigate all data recorded by IT systems — a central location for system administrators to make sense of IT data across the data center regardless of format or source. Users access Splunk's AJAX interface through a Web browser. Once data is indexed, users can find their way through systems using time and keyword searches or browse event relationships by pointing and clicking through Splunk's interactive results. **See Full Story, Data Center Search Party**

Tycoon Hewlett-Packard Co. <https://tycoon.hpl.hp.com> Developers: Bernardo Huberman, Kevin Lai, and economists and computer scientists at HP's Information Dynamics Lab Introduction video: <https://tycoon.hpl.hp.com/~tycoon/dl/mm/tycoon.wmv> <https://tycoon.hpl.hp.com/~tycoon/dl/mm/tycoon.asf> Demo video: <https://tycoon.hpl.hp.com/~tycoon/dl/mm/tycoon-demo.mpeg>

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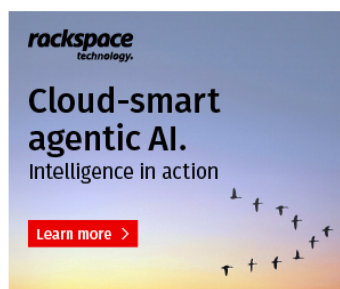


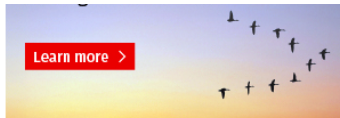
Bernardo Huberman (right) and his HP research team members, Kevin Lai (left) and Thomas Sandholm. Image Credit: Andy Freeberg

Tycoon is a virtualized market-based system for delegating computer resources. In pooling a company's computing resources into an abstract computing utility layer, users gain the ability to bid or barter on the resources within internal divisions of their company or with other companies in a broader market. Employees are given a certain number of tokens to put toward computing resources per year. The more urgent a user deems the need, the more tokens he bids for the equipment. Tycoon has been installed in the HP Singapore office, which is the national grid office; in Tshinghua University in Beijing; and in the Scandinavian Grid. It's also being deployed in Kurchatov Institute in Russia and in the CERN, the European Laboratory for Particle Physics. **See Full Story**, Electronic Auctioneer

VMware Distributed Resource Scheduler VMware Inc.
www.vmware.com

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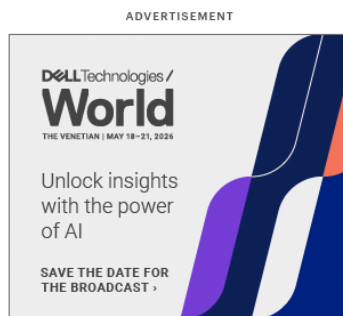




Distributed Resource Scheduling (DRS) automatically balances the workload among pools of virtual servers, allowing servers to operate at 80% or greater utilization. Once policies are established, DRS manages performance, automatically provisions virtual servers, balances loads and activates fail-over without administrator action. By optimizing infrastructure resources, DRS helps create a self-managing, efficient dynamic data center. **See Full Story, Server Shifter**

Honorable Mentions

Avatar IBM Almaden Research Center www.almaden.ibm.com/
More information:
www.almaden.ibm.com/software/projects/avatar/



Team photo: Top row, from left to right: Huaiyu Zhu, Alexander Loeser, Sriram Raghavan and Shivakumar Vaithyanathan. Bottom row, from left to right: Eser Kandogan, Rajasekar Krishnamurthy and Ganesh Ramakrishnan

Avatar, a set of technologies invented by researchers at IBM's Almaden lab, leverages deep analytics, takes the ambiguity out of queries and explains results. It's able to extract concepts and understand metadata, enabling the discovery of information often

Avatar, a set of technologies invented by researchers at IBM's Almaden lab, leverages deep analytics, takes the ambiguity out of queries and explains results. It's able to extract concepts and understand metadata, enabling the discovery of information often buried in volumes of unstructured text such as e-mails and Web pages. Borrowing concepts from structured database research, Avatar's off-line processing uses Unstructured Information Management Architecture-compliant annotators to extract concepts and relationships from free-form text. Keywords are semantically interpreted in the context of a domain ontology along with the extracted concepts and are presented in an intuitive interface, resulting in a dialogue between the user and the system to determine the true user intent.

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By Rackspace

Apr 15, 2026

CA Mobile Device Management CA Inc. www.ca.com

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A red banner advertisement for Lakebase. On the left, the text "One database for AI, apps and agents" is written in white. The Lakebase logo, which consists of a stylized 'L' made of horizontal bars followed by the word "Lakebase", is positioned over the word "database". On the right side of the banner, the Databricks logo (a stack of three cubes) is above the word "databricks" in white. Below the Databricks logo is a dark red button with the text "Try Lakebase" in white.

The CA Mobile Device Management software will provide large organizations with enterprise-level device management tools for the most popular smart phone systems, such as those of Microsoft, Symbian Ltd. and Research In Motion Ltd. It will provide over-the-air management and security utilization, and where practical, Open Mobile Alliance Device Management standards components. The first release of CA Mobile Device Management will provide device-independent consolidated asset inventory, configuration management, policy compliance and security management, and an end-user self-service portal. Based on the CA Environmental IT Management modular architecture, it will be integrated into other CA solution suites or can operate as a stand-alone management product for smart phones.

Identity Trusted Network Technologies Inc.
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Identity embeds machine and user identity information into network packets, establishing pervasive identity across every user, workstation and application server in the enterprise. Customers can control access to valuable resources from the network up, as well as know who is accessing what resources when. They can produce comprehensive reports, confirm provisioning processes and automate identity-based audit information. The major components of an Identity deployment include the Identity Driver, which automatically and transparently embeds a unique user and machine identity within each session; the I-Gateway, which is a hardened in-line appliance placed between users and critical assets; and the I-Manager, which aggregates audit data from I-Gateways and acts as the policy management and distribution center.

Jena HP Laboratories www.hpl.hp.com More information
www.hpl.hp.com/semweb Download site:
<https://jena.sourceforge.net>



Team Photo: From left to right: Dave Reynolds, Andy Seaborne, Chris Dollin, Martin Merry, Ian Dickinson and Brian McBride (not pictured: Jeremy Carroll, from HP Labs Bristol, and Kevin Wilkinson, from HP Labs Palo Alto)

Jena, created at HP Labs, is an open-source Semantic Web tool kit to create applications that share, process and integrate information across disparate systems and geographies on the Web. The Semantic Web allows computers to find and integrate information from diverse sources so that it can be used for different purposes. With the use of Jena, more of the Web's content can be created in a machine-comprehensible form, allowing increasingly intelligent gathering, filtering and processing of knowledge.

Multimedia Fingerprinting Forensics for Traitors Tracing University of Maryland Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, A. James Clark School of Engineering www.ece.umd.edu More information:

www.ece.umd.edu/News/06_03_07_dig_fingerprint.html Research brief:

www.isr.umd.edu/ISR/research/researchbriefs/Wu_Digital_Fingerprinting.pdf (download PDF) Faculty research page:

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Team photo: Clark School faculty members Min Wu and K.J. Ray Liu

Clark School faculty members Min Wu and K.J. Ray Liu are developing multimedia forensics technologies that will protect digital resources and trace those who attempt to steal or misuse them through "collusion attacks," which occur when multiple users conspire to dilute or erase the original digital identification from the stolen multimedia content to avoid implication.

Wu and Liu's new, interdisciplinary digital fingerprinting technology includes anticollusion codes that protect multimedia content from unauthorized redistribution by embedding a unique ID that leaves a distinct fingerprint on each user's copy without compromising the quality of the multimedia product or inhibiting legitimate uses. This ID can identify which users have contributed to a piracy attack.

Neuromancer Sun Microsystems Inc. www.sun.com More information: <https://research.sun.com/projects/dashboard.php?id=142>

Team Photo: From left to right, front row: Ann Wollrath, Bob Sproull, Tim Blackman and Jane Loizeaux. Back row: Karl Haberl, Jim Waldo and Michael Warres. Photo credit: Heidi Peabody

Sun Labs is researching large-scale distributed telemetry with a focus on how a system could be created to gather, anonymize and assess vast amounts of health data from wide deployments of sensors. Neuromancer's goal is to enable the collection and use of information gathered from medical sensors deployed over the scope of a medical practice, a hospital, a metropolitan area or an entire population. These sensors will be deployed all the time, allowing constant data gathering of basic medical information. The information will also be kept for the lifetime of the patient, 80-plus years, meaning that the system itself will exist for a time scale not usually thought of in computer systems.

Small Programmable Object Technology, Project Sun SPOT Sun Microsystems Inc. www.sun.com More information: www.sunspotworld.com/ Video: <https://sunspotworld.com/media/>

Team photo: Left to right, back row: Ron Goldman, Arshan Poursohi and Rob Tow. Middle row: Vipul Gupta, Michael Russo, Bob Alkire and Christian Puhlinger. Seated: Randy Smith, Roger Meike and Pete St Pierre. Not shown: David Simmons Image Credit: Joshua Uziel

Team photo: Left to right, back row: Ron Goldman, Arshan Poursohi and Rob Tow. Middle row: Vipul Gupta, Michael Russo, Bob Alkire and Christian Puhlinger. Seated: Randy Smith, Roger Meike and Pete St Pierre. Not shown: David Simmons Image Credit: Joshua Uziel



Project Sun SPOT simplifies the process of developing wireless sensor and transducer applications, enabling developers to build wireless transducer applications in Java using a sensor board for I/O, an 802.15.4 radio for wireless communication and familiar Integrated Development Environments, such as NetBeans, to write code. The portability makes it simpler to migrate applications among platforms, enabling developers to build new wireless sensors devices using off-the-shelf hardware components.

SeeWhy SeeWhy Software Ltd. www.seewhy.com More information: www.seewhy.com/content/view/71/140/



Team photo: From left to right, Paul Donaldson, Imad Rayman, Phil Wilkins, Mike Tinnion, Steve Brown, Paul Thomas, Dave Mortimer and Andrew Kurowski

SeeWhy uses event stream processing to analyze every transaction automatically, in real time, enabling companies to build more intelligent processes by comparing individual business events with past performance using forward-looking analytics. This real-time approach enables business intelligence capabilities to be built directly into business processes, where an exception can be automatically generated and sent to the relevant operations team, or as a closed loop system where the action is automated. The system is used for monitoring customer transactions on a Web site, shipments, systems performance, process compliance and individual item sales passing through a point of sale system.

VirtualIQ Enterprise ToutVirtual Inc. www.toutvirtual.com More information: www.toutvirtual.com/solutions/viq/enterprise/ www.toutvirtual.com/solutions/viq/enterprise/preview.php

Team photo: Vipul Pabari, chief technology officer (left), and Bakul Mehta, chief strategy officer

VirtualIQ Enterprise manages virtual computing infrastructures — cross-platform and multitiered — allowing organizations to obtain a holistic view of their virtual infrastructure (server, applications and clients) and control it based on top-level business policy objectives to prolong product life, protect IT investments and maximize returns



VirtualIQ Enterprise manages virtual computing infrastructures — cross-platform and multitiered — allowing organizations to obtain a holistic view of their virtual infrastructure (server, applications and clients) and control it based on top-level business policy objectives to prolong product life, protect IT investments and maximize returns on investment. The suite includes global visibility and control of virtual infrastructures, workflow automation for provisioning and decommissioning of virtual machines, and host protection and resource optimization.

VMware Player VMware www.vmware.com VMware's online network, VMTN: www.vmware.com/vmtn/appliances/directory

VMware Player lets users evaluate new or beta software contained in virtual machines (a software file containing an operating system and an application) without lengthy setup or system configuration. VMware Player installs like a standard desktop application. Once installed, it runs virtual machines in a separate window. It includes features that enable users to configure their machines for optimal performance and access to host PC devices.

Computerworld Horizon Awards 2006 Honorees

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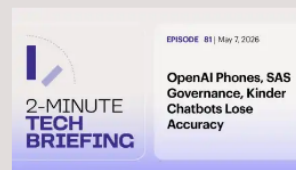
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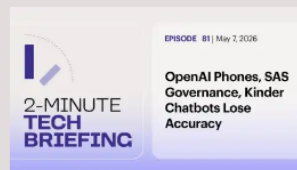


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