

O'Reilly UK User Group Programme

NEWSLETTER

Issue 09-06

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HIGHLIGHTS

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NEWS FROM O'REILLY AND BEYOND

- 2.6 Million Lines of Code
- Smalltalk for Everyone Else
- User Group Members Receive a Special 30% Discount on O'Reilly Learning Courses
- Sharing Internet Connections
- Scaling Dynamic Websites with Apache Modules
- Two Slick QuickTime Tricks
- Your New iTunes Movies to DVD (and Protect Your Other iTunes Purchases)
- Better Registry Searching
- Windows Mobile Weekly Roundup
- What is Java Content Repository
- Managing a HoneyPot
- Enter the MAKE & CRAFT Halloween Contests
- The Way of a Digital Photography Pioneer (Podcast)
- TechTalkRadio Interviews David Pogue
- Creating Beautiful Digital Photos the Eddie Tapp Way (Podcast)
- Scaling Dynamic Websites with Apache Modules

BOOK NEWS

- Books for review
- Coming soon

CONFERENCE NEWS

YOUR BOOK REVIEWS

YOUR NEWS

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NEWS FROM O'REILLY AND BEYOND

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General News

***2.6 Million Lines of Code

Announcing O'Reilly Code Search, where you can enter search terms to find relevant sample code from nearly 700 O'Reilly books. The database currently contains over 123,000 individual examples, comprises 2.6 million lines of code, all edited and ready to use.

<<http://labs.oreilly.com/code/>>

***Smalltalk for Everyone Else

The Pragmatic Programmers advise learning a new language every year. Instead of yet another Algol derivative, why not master object orientation with perhaps the purest OO language ever devised? Smalltalk and the Squeak environment offer a powerful and usable learning experience; Keith Fieldhouse provides an introduction.

<http://www.oreillynet.com/pub/a/onlamp/2006/09/21/learning_smalltalk.html>

***User Group Members Receive a Special 30% Discount on O'Reilly Learning Courses

As an O'Reilly User Group member, you save on all the courses in the following University of Illinois Certificate Series: -Linux/Unix System Administration -Web Programming -Open Source Programming -.NET Programming

To redeem, use Promotion Code "ORALL1," good for a 30% discount, in Step #3 of the enrolment process. Each course comes with a free O'Reilly book and a 7-day money-back guarantee. Register online: <<https://oreillylearning.com/enroll/>>

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Open Source

***Sharing Internet Connections

Protecting your computer when you're online is good. If you have multiple computers in your home or small business, protecting all of them is also good--especially if you can share your internet connection. Dru Lavigne demonstrates how to allow other computers to use the network safely with a FreeBSD or similar Unix system and fwbuilder.

<http://www.oreillynet.com/pub/a/bsd/2006/10/05/FreeBSD_Basics.html>

***Scaling Dynamic Websites with Apache Modules

Yogesh Makwana and Syvum Technologies had a problem: their application, hosted on a shared server, used too much CPU time and had grown unresponsive. Moving to a virtual private server and using the appropriate Apache modules and architecture brought their costs and response times and load averages under control. This case study explores their technique.

<http://www.oreillynet.com/pub/a/apache/2006/09/28/httpd_scaling.html>

Digital Media

***Two Slick QuickTime Tricks

Turn your video on its ear! Our hands-on tutorial shows you how to work with vertical movies and then embed them in a web page with a friendly new kind of trigger.

<<http://www.oreillynet.com/pub/a/oreilly/digitalmedia/2006/09/29/two-slick-quicktime-tricks.html>>

Mac

***Your New iTunes Movies to DVD (and Protect Your Other iTunes Purchases)

How much money have you spent at the iTunes store? And what do you have to show for it? An iPod full of music? TV shows? Those new games and movies? Too many people forget how much cash they've put into their digital media. And when bad things happen--house fires, computer theft, iPod loss--they're not always prepared to be able to recover those digital assets. Erica Sadun shows you archiving techniques to preserve your (hefty) iTunes investment.

<<http://www.macdevcenter.com/pub/a/mac/2006/09/19/burn-itunes-to-dvd.html>>

Windows/.NET

***Better Registry Searching

Finding what you need in the registry is harder than trying to find a needle in a haystack. Mitch Tulloch shows you how to find what you need--fast!

<<http://www.windowsdevcenter.com/pub/a/windows/2006/09/26/better-registry-searching.html>>

***Windows Mobile Weekly Roundup

Here's the weekly summary of a mix of Windows Mobile and general mobile tech related items from Todd Ogasawara's blog.

<http://www.oreillynet.com/windows/blog/2006/10/windows_mobile_weekly_roundup_5.html>

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Java

***What is Java Content Repository

You might have heard of JSR-170, but what is a content repository, and what can you do with it? Well, do you want to manage documents with versioning, search, access control, and more? Content repositories offer these features, and JSR-170 codifies them into a single API. Sunil Patil shows how to use the reference implementation--Apache Jackrabbit--to create a blogging application.

<<http://www.oreillynet.com/pub/a/onjava/2006/10/04/what-is-java-content-repository.html>>

Sys Admin/Web

***Managing a Honeypot

If intruders are always scanning the Internet for potential victims--and they are--can you find the intruders and their exploits by putting up fake networks that only a deliberate scan could find? That's the theory behind honeypots. Peter Mikhalenko discusses the implementation, theory, and legality of using a honeypot to protect your network.

<<http://www.oreillynet.com/pub/a/sysadmin/2006/09/28/honeypots.html>>

MAKE

***Enter the MAKE & CRAFT Halloween Contests

Makers and Crafters, it's time to enter our ghoulishly fun Halloween contests! Anyone, anywhere can enter. Depending on what type of maker or crafter you are, enter one or all of the following contests: Hack-o-Lantern, Costume, Decorations, Gadgets and More, and Treat-or-Treat.

Have your entries in before Saturday, Nov. 4, 2006, at 1:59 pm EST. We're giving you a little time to take photos and get them up post-Halloween, but you can enter any time starting now. Contest is open to anyone on planet Earth or the surrounding orbit. Remember you can enter any time just by tagging your photos on Flickr (flickr.com) with "MAKECRAFTHALLOWEEN" and adding them to the MAKE and/or CRAFT photo pools. To enter Trick-or-Treat just post about MAKE/CRAFT or the contest on your blog.

For complete contest information, rules, and prizes, go to:

<http://www.makezine.com/blog/archive/2006/10make_craft_halloween_contests.html>

For More MAKE Projects and info, go to: <<http://makezine.com/>>

Podcasts

***The Way of a Digital Photography Pioneer

In "Stephen Johnson on Digital Photography," the renowned photographer writes about his journey on the "bleeding edge of digital photography's evolution." In this podcast, Johnson talks to Sara Peyton about his career, photo techniques, photo ethics in a digital age, and why, for him, taking landscape photos became synonymous with caring about the wild places he wandered in. (20 minutes 27 seconds), Stephen Johnson, a digital photography pioneer and author of Stephen Johnson on Digital Photography, discusses photo techniques, photo ethics in a digital age, and why, for him, taking landscape photos became synonymous with caring about the wild places he wandered in.

<<http://www.oreillynet.com/pub/a/network/2006/09/29/digital-photography-pioneer.html>>

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***TechTalkRadio Interviews David Pogue

Find out what to expect with the subject of one of David's upcoming titles on the anticipated Microsoft Windows Vista and some other ways to get info on tech from David Pogue. We'll also find out why David loves the latest Tivo!

<<http://www.techtalkradio.com/books/poque.htm>>

**Creating Beautiful Digital Photos the Eddie Tapp Way

Eddie Tapp, 2006 Photoshop Hall of Famer, award-winning photographer, and much sought after educator, discusses his new book from O'Reilly, "Photoshop Workflow Setups." In this interview by new O'Reilly staffer Sara Peyton, Eddie talks about his photography roots, the art of taking pictures, his new book...and why he lives by the rule of 300. (15 minutes 33 seconds)

<<http://www.oreillynet.com/pub/a/network/2006/09/15/eddie-tapp-podcast.html>>

Web

***Scaling Dynamic Websites with Apache Modules

Yogesh Makwana and Syvum Technologies had a problem: their application, hosted on a shared server, used too much CPU time and had grown unresponsive. Moving to a virtual private server and using the appropriate Apache modules and architecture brought their costs and response times and load averages under control. This case study explores their technique.

<http://www.onlamp.com/pub/a/apache/2006/09/28/httpd_scaling.html>

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BOOK NEWS
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Copies of our books are available for your members to review -- send me an email with the delivery address together with the book you would like to review. When the review is published, please send me a copy or the url. I would also appreciate if you could send a copy to www.amazon.co.uk

Latest books available for review –

○ [Agile Retrospectives](#)

Project retrospectives help teams examine what went right and what went wrong on a project. But traditionally, retrospectives (also known as "post-mortems") are only help at the end of the project--too late to help. You need agile retrospectives that are iterative and incremental. You need to accurately find and fix problems to help the team today. Now Esther and Diana show you the tools, tricks and tips you need to fix the problems you face on a software development project on an on-going basis. You'll see how to architect retrospectives in general, how to design them specifically for your team and organization, how to run them effectively, how to make the needed changes and how to scale these techniques up. You'll learn how to deal with problems, and implement solutions effectively throughout the project--not just at the end. With regular tune-ups, your team will hum like a precise, world-class orchestra.

○ [CSS: The Missing Manual](#)

Cascading Style Sheets are now a reliable method for handling all kinds of Web page presentations -- from fonts and colors to page layout. But due to CSS's complexity most designers treat it as a kind of window-dressing to spruce up the appearance of their sites without tapping into the real power of CSS. *CSS: The Missing Manual* clearly explains this powerful design tool and how you can use it to build sparkingly new Web sites, or refurbish old sites that are ready for an upgrade.

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- [Google Hacks, Third Edition](#)

Now that new features and services such as Google Maps, Google Talk, and Google Desktop have been added to the expanding Google universe, we've made the third edition of this bestseller into an infinitely more useful book for this powerful search engine. You'll not only find dozens of hacks for new Google services, but plenty of updated tips, tricks and scripts for hacking the old ones.

- [JavaScript: The Definitive Guide, Fifth Edition](#)

The indispensable reference for JavaScript programmers since 1996, *JavaScript: The Definitive Guide*, 5th Edition is completely revised and expanded to cover JavaScript as it is used in today's Web 2.0 applications.

- [LPI Linux Certification in a Nutshell, Second Edition](#)

LPI Linux Certification in a Nutshell, Second Edition is a thoroughly researched reference to the Linux Professional Institute exams. The book is divided into four parts, one for each of the LPI exams. Each part features not only a summary of the core skills you need, but sample exercises and test questions, along with helpful hints to let you focus your energies.

- [Make: Technology on Your Time Volume 07](#)

If you like to tweak, disassemble, recreate, and invent cool new uses for technology, you'll love MAKE, our project-based quarterly for the inquisitive do-it-yourselfer. Make Volume 07 is the Backyard Biology issue, with DNA extraction, plant grafting, home mycology lab, snail cryogenics, and more. Also, learn how to make your own Stirling engine, install a video camera on a model rocket, make a head-mounted water cannon, and dozens of other projects to satiate your inner maker.

- [Mastering Regular Expressions, Third Edition](#)

Written in the lucid, entertaining tone that makes a complex, dry topic become crystal-clear to programmers, and sprinkled with solutions to complex real-world problems, *Mastering Regular Expressions*, Third Edition offers a wealth of information that you can put to immediate use.

- [Photoshop Workflow Setups](#)

Adobe Photoshop has so many different work areas and tools that it can become confusing or even intimidating for digital photographers to use in a production environment. This first book in our new series on digital photography offers a step-by-step approach to Photoshop's vast collection of menus, palettes, and tools, showing you not only how they work, but how they should work for your specific needs in a visually uncluttered workspace.

- [PHP Cookbook, Second Edition](#)

When it comes to creating dynamic web sites, the open source PHP language is red-hot property: used on more than 20 million web sites today, PHP is now more popular than Microsoft's ASP.NET technology. With our Cookbook's unique format, you can learn how to build dynamic web applications that work on any web browser. This revised new edition makes it easy to find specific solutions for programming challenges.

- [Programming Python, Third Edition](#)

An industry standard just got even better. This bestseller from O'Reilly has been updated to reflect the many changes introduced by Python 2.5. It teaches the most common Python application domains from the ground up with plenty of real-world examples and in-depth discussion. Ideal for novices as well as advanced practitioners.

- [Ruby on Rails: Up and Running](#)

This compact guide from O'Reilly teaches you the basics of Ruby on Rails, the super-productive new way to develop full-featured web applications. Discover how to install and use both the Ruby scripting language and the Rails framework. More advanced material shows you just how fast Ruby on Rails can go.

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- [Software Testing Foundations](#)

This book offers basic knowledge that helps to achieve structured and systematic evaluation and testing. This should contribute to an improved quality of the software. The content of this book is written in a way that does not subsume previous knowledge of software quality assurance. A continuous case example is included in order to help understand every shown topic and its practical solution. It corresponds to the requirements of the ISTQB Foundation Certificate. The knowledge needed for the exams can be acquired by self-studies. The book can also be used to extend the knowledge after or parallel to participation in a course.

- [The Relational Database Dictionary](#)

Avoid misunderstandings that can affect the design, programming, and use of database systems. Whether you're using Oracle, DB2, SQL Server, MySQL, or PostgreSQL, *The Relational Database Dictionary* will prevent confusion about the precise meaning of database-related terms (e.g., attribute, 3NF, one-to-many correspondence, predicate, repeating group, join dependency), helping to ensure the success of your database projects. Carefully reviewed for clarity, accuracy, and completeness, this authoritative and comprehensive quick-reference contains more than 600 terms, many with examples, covering issues and concepts arising from the relational model of data.

- [Stephen Johnson on Digital Photography](#)

A master photographer and teacher since 1977, Stephen Johnson is widely recognized as a pioneer of digital photography. His new book chronicles his ride on the bleeding edge of this medium's evolution, and provides a practical in-depth introduction to digital photography that includes the latest techniques. Complete with beautiful color photographic examples and illustrations, this book is a unique, passionate, holistic examination for every student of photography.

****Coming Soon

- [ActionScript 3.0 Cookbook](#)
- [Craft Volume 01](#)
- [CSS Cookbook, Second Edition](#)
- [Digital Photography Expert Techniques, Second Edition](#)
- [Essential Electronics for Software Folk](#) (*Pragmatic Bookshelf*)
- [Everyday Scripting with Ruby](#) (*Pragmatic Bookshelf*)
- [HTML & XHTML: The Definitive Guide, Sixth Edition](#)
- [Java Generics and Collections](#)
- ["Just Right" Software Planning & Estimation](#) (*Pragmatic Bookshelf*)
- [Learning JavaScript](#)
- [MCSE Core Elective Exams in a Nutshell](#)
- [Photoshop Elements 5: The Missing Manual](#)
- [Pragmatic Unit Testing in C# with NUnit, Second Edition](#) (*Pragmatic Bookshelf*)
- [Process Improvement Essentials Programming Atlas](#)
- [Programming Embedded Systems, Second Edition](#)
- [Visual Basic 2005 Cookbook](#)

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Conference News
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*** Put Up an O'Reilly EuroOSCON Banner

At long last I have got the winners –

Mugara group in Zagossa, Spain wins 10 O'Reilly books

Lonix, London, UK wins one year sub to Make Magazine

Congratulations to both groups and thank you all for putting up the banner.

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***Submit Your Proposals for the 2007 MySQL Conference & Expo

The Call for Participation for the 2007 MySQL Conference & Expo has just opened: an invitation for database experts and enthusiasts to share their knowledge of MySQL with the global open source community. The theme for the 2007 conference is "Scale to New Heights with MySQL." This annual event brings nearly 2,000 MySQL developers, DBAs, users, and partners together in Santa Clara, California. The Call for Participation ends November 7, 2006; the conference takes place April 23-26, 2007. <<http://www.mysqluc.com>>

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YOUR EVENTS

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***[HP-Interex EMEA Technical Conference on HP-UX](#)

13-15 November 2006 in Valbonne, France
Enjoy the sun of the Côte d'Azur while learning about HP-UX.

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O'REILLY WILL BE THERE!

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*** [UK Geospatial Mash-up](#)

20 / 10 / 2006 at 09:30 , Ordnance Survey, Southampton
A meeting for all those interested in working with and using services based on UK Geo data.

***[LinuxWorld Conference & Expo](#)

25/26 October, Olympia 2, London
The UK's only open source event for business decision-makers and technical professionals. The event delivers information and resources to implement Linux and open source solutions into business infrastructure and enterprise networks.

***[EuroBSDCon 2006](#)

November 10th - 12th 2006, Milan, Italy
Hosted in the foggy northern Italy, the fifth EuroBSDCon aims at being a new successful chapter in the itinerant series of European BSD conferences. EuroBSDCon represents the biggest gathering for BSD developers from the old continent, as well as users and passionate from around the World. It is also a chance to share experiences, know-how, and cultures.

*** [OpenCON 2006](#)

2/3 December, Venice, Italy
The conference is entirely organized by OpenBEER (<http://www.openbeer.it>), the italian OpenBSD users group. OpenCON lasts about two days and, as usual, many official developers have already confirmed their presence. The main topics will be: information security, secure programming, and anything related to OpenBSD. The manifestation is completely free of charge, but it will be possible to buy tshirts and gadgets to fund both OpenCON and OpenBSD.

***[Flash on the Beach](#)

Flash on the Beach conference is the first major Flash conference in the UK for over 6 years! Over 40 of the world's most talented Flash designers, developers and artists presenting on 3 tracks over 3 full days with mixer get togethers each morning and evening for essential networking opportunities. Flash on the Beach has brought together the most creative, technical, inspirational awe-inspiring, educational and entertaining industry leading speakers in the rich media industry.

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YOUR BOOK REVIEWS

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***UKUUG

All the UKUUG reviews are now online, there are too many to list them, but please have a look on <http://www.ukuug.org/books/reviews/>

*** ActionScript.it reviewed –

Ajax Hacks - <http://www.actionscript.it/showContent.cfm?id=698>

*** Durham Computer Society reviewed –

Intermediate Perl - <http://compsoc.dur.ac.uk/reviews/Intermediate-Perl.html>

Head Rush Ajax - <http://compsoc.dur.ac.uk/reviews/HeadRushAjax.html>

XAML in a Nutshell - <http://compsoc.dur.ac.uk/reviews/XAML-In-a-Nutshell.html>

DNS & Bind, 5e - <http://compsoc.dur.ac.uk/reviews/DNS-and-BIND-5.html>

***Perl it reviewed –

Perl Hacks - English version: http://www.varlogarthas.net/blog/2006/08/perl_hacks.html

Italian version: <http://www.perl.it/documenti/bibliografia/37.html>

*** MMUG-Egypt reviewed –

DV Filmmaking from start to finish - http://mmug-egypt.mxdj.com/reviewing_dv_filmmaking_reviewed_by_rafiq_elmansy.htm

***GNUraghe il LUG di Oristano reviewed –

Learning GNU Emacs -

http://www.gnuraghe.org/?O%27Reilly_Users_Group:Recensioni:Learning_GNU_Emacs

***Apriti Software reviewed –

Python in a Nutshell 2e -

<http://www.apritisoftware.it/index.php?option=content&task=view&id=33&Itemid=45>

***London Perlmongers reviewed –

Time Management for System Administrators -

http://london.pm.org/reviews/time_management_sysadmins.html

***Nordest Perlmongers reviewed –

Unicode Explained - http://www.varlogarthas.net/blog/2006/10/unicode_explained.html

***JUG Trento reviewed –

Building Scalable Web Sites -

<http://www.jugtrento.org/trewiki/index.php/recensioni/libri/ScalableWebSites>

Enterprise SOA - <http://www.jugtrento.org/trewiki/index.php/recensioni/libri/EnterpriseSOA>