

Offset	Topic
00:17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Intro</b></li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Still recovering from Dragon*Con</li> </ul>
03:19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Security Alerts</b></li> </ul>
03:38	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Human captcha cracking is a growing business <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="http://arstechnica.com/news.ars/post/20080901-captchas-flummox-bots-but-may-be-doomed-by-captcha-farmers.html">http://arstechnica.com/news.ars/post/20080901-captchas-flummox-bots-but-may-be-doomed-by-captcha-farmers.html</a></li> <li>• Despite cracks in captcha's effectiveness, still have some value</li> <li>• By their nature, though, are weak to human crack attempts</li> <li>• Just like human labor has been harnessed for good, helping with OCR</li> <li>• Now human input being used for attackers</li> <li>• Article in particular points out rise of captcha "solving" businesses in India</li> <li>• Cites the favorable economics, that more can be made by solving than traditional data processing</li> <li>• Article also points out the most dire consequence</li> <li>• Any system that a legitimate customer can still use, will still be vulnerable to farming</li> <li>• Felten on captcha solving services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="http://www.freedom-to-tinker.com/?p=1385">http://www.freedom-to-tinker.com/?p=1385</a></li> <li>• Asks two questions</li> <li>• Is minimal cost of solving services still enough friction to reserve some value in captchas?</li> <li>• Can governments effectively stop or just raise cost of solving services?</li> <li>• We'll find out on the former question</li> <li>• He implies that any non-zero cost will still be better than no barrier at all</li> <li>• Unclear on the latter</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>
07:15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Up tick in number of zombie PCs in botnets <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="http://go.theregister.com/feed/www.theregister.co.uk/2008/09/02/zombie_surge/">http://go.theregister.com/feed/www.theregister.co.uk/2008/09/02/zombie_surge/</a></li> <li>• By some measurements, the number of zombies has increased by 3-4 times</li> <li>• Article has some detail on how this was measured and calculated</li> <li>• This growth is also in a short period, just a few months</li> <li>• No one is sure why the recent growth</li> <li>• Article points that while we can track some trends well, other areas need work</li> <li>• By some measures, there are fewer command and control servers</li> <li>• This may point to increased power, robustness of botnet systems</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

## Offset

## Topic

- Increase in zombies could exacerbate drop in price for using those systems
- This may be a silver lining, if supply starts to shrink to better match demand pricing

09:49

### • News

10:04

- Google enters the browser war
  - <http://feeds.arstechnica.com/~r/arstechnica/BAaf/~3/380888206/20080901-google-opens-up-new-front-in-browser-wars-with-chrome.html>
  - Built on WebKit but with Google's own JavaScript interpreter, V8
  - Most novel aspect is treating each tab like a process
  - Separates memory and resources for each
  - Includes a process manager to examine each tab's utilization
  - Also has many competitive features in the areas of privacy, security, framework and application support
  - Google comic on new browser
    - <http://www.google.com/googlebooks/chrome/>
    - Pretty accessible description of multi processing
    - Also some insight into Google's testing and development
    - Reinforces expected use, long running web applications
    - Much of the comic is not as accessible, though
    - Point is to explain how technology choices are better
    - But discussion of hidden classes, garbage collection a bit deep
    - Claims to be giving back to the web
    - Everything is open source, build on much existing technology
- Mozilla's thoughts on new Google browser
  - <http://tech.slashdot.org/article.pl?sid=08/09/02/1637216>
  - CEO John Lilly sees it as welcome competition
  - Sees aims of organizations as different
  - Confirms that positive relationship, funding will still exist between the two
  - Also thoughts from Tristan Nitot, Mozilla Europe president
  - Thinks Google's move is aimed at Microsoft, not Mozilla
  - Mozilla is neutral but MS has competitive business offerings
  - Interesting idea that Google may want to have their own platform
  - Not be dependent on MSIE for large part of their users
  - How will they affect Microsoft market share, though?
- Some press indicates Chrome is already eating into Mozilla's market share
- I wish they had a plausible strategy for attacking MSIE
- Better engineering is not good enough
- If it was, Mozilla would already be dominant

17:37

- The engineering work sounds good but all browsers are competing on this front
- Some better than others
- Firefox 3 already shows performance better tuned to long run web applications
- An acquaintance predicts Chrome specific features for Google apps
- This is a worst case outcome, a form of lock in
- The UI improvements are easily copied
- So it really is about the business tactics of competing with MS
- I am skeptical given MSIE's entrenched position through bundling
- Chrome bears a surprising EULA
  - [http://news.cnet.com/8301-17939\\_109-10030522-2.html](http://news.cnet.com/8301-17939_109-10030522-2.html)
  - Three conditions in particular
  - Google can download, install updates remotely apparently under blanket consent
  - Google acquires a non-exclusive license to content flow through the browser
  - Ads will be serve and how may be changed without notice
  - The first is not too unusual, much software comes with auto update
  - The last also not unusual for an ad company
  - The second is a huge gaffe
  - It is non-exclusive but still is hugely invasive
  - Sort of a cover their ass move if they screenshot, capture your content incidentally
  - Just a bit t vague, though, and caused quite a stir
- Chrome license amended after protest
  - [http://www.pcworld.com/businesscenter/article/150637/google\\_amends\\_chrome\\_license\\_agreement\\_after\\_objections.html](http://www.pcworld.com/businesscenter/article/150637/google_amends_chrome_license_agreement_after_objections.html)
  - Google will drop the second provision
  - Claims this included it as boiler plate from other licenses they'd seen
  - Specifically from Google's own universal terms of service
  - Thought such standard language would be easier for users
  - Users objected to copyright invasion but also privacy implications
  - Makes sense as much material flowing through a browser may also trod on issues of scope of consent, not just copyright
  - Google will make license change retroactive to original adopters
  - Lawyer, David Loschiavo, highlights other issues
  - Not all content a user uses through browser is theirs
  - Think of reporters using it to work on news story for publisher
  - Schools and corporations with ownership of email, et. al.
- Washington state ruling deals a blow to unbalanced EULAs

22:10

- <http://feeds.arstechnica.com/~r/arstechnica/BAaf/~3/380969504/20080901-washington-court-deals-a-blow-to-unconscionable-eulas.html>
- Based on a class action suit
- AT&T customer was being billed a municipal fee
- Based solely on ZIP code even though customer wasn't in city limits
- AT&T tried to force arbitration per its service agreement
- Case was appealed all the way up to state's supreme court
- That court delivered unanimous ruling
- Upheld several lower courts ruling, that certain conditions were unconscionable
- No one knowing the full scope of specific terms would agree to them
- Only applicable in Washington state, though
- Court rules that that state's consumer laws applied
- AT&T stipulated NY in its service agreement, court held contract was executed in WA
- WA state laws then forbade AT&T's prohibition of class action suits and confidentiality rules
- Core claim, though, was around whether customer assent to contract
- Court held that there was no sufficient evidence of that, despite AT&T's objections
- Specifics may only hold in WA state
- However, the ruling's statement around assent may find sympathetic ears in other courts
- I doubt that EULAs as a form of contract will ever be completely abolished
- Better standards may evolve, though
- If they are increasingly scrutinized, companies will have to do better
- Will realize they can enforce less because of the weaker framing of assent
- Neal Stephenson on what's wrong with cell phones
  - <http://io9.com/5046316/neal-stephenson-explains-whats-wrong-with-mobile-phones>
  - This article discusses Stephenson's new book, *Anathem*
  - In it, describes a culture where a segment eschews technology
  - The technology in question strongly parallels modern gadgets
  - Piece turns into a mini-interview exploring Stephenson's views on mobile phones in particular
  - Provides a more considered answer to my problem with cell phones
  - Identifies their interrupting, distracting nature as the problem
  - Stephenson admits his phone is critical
  - Thinks we are at an awkward stage of integrating manners, technology
  - Annalee Newitz points out a few of the interface problems

<u>Offset</u>	<u>Topic</u>
29:06	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ear wig or act of holding phone up interfere with body language</li> <li>• Audible ringer affects not just the owner but everyone in ear shot</li> <li>• Makes me think of Microsoft's digital manners</li> <li>• Their tech was about enabling owners of spaces</li> <li>• Frustrated because real digital manners could help</li> <li>• Think of a cell phone that detects whether owner or someone nearby is speaking</li> <li>• How else would you give these devices more manner friendly interface?</li> <li>• Is it more important to raise the questions and try to adjust norms?</li> <li>• What if high profile users, techies and others, set a different example?</li> </ul>
29:26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>tail -f</b></li> </ul>
29:26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Report shows internet capacity keeping up with demand <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="http://blog.wired.com/27bstroke6/2008/09/keep-streaming.html">http://blog.wired.com/27bstroke6/2008/09/keep-streaming.html</a></li> <li>• Capacity grew 62%, demand 53% over the past year</li> <li>• According to a report by monitoring firm, TeleGeography</li> <li>• This is international growth</li> <li>• Some areas, like Latin America and South Asia double capacity</li> <li>• Accuracy of the report is limited</li> <li>• Based on data from open exchange points and surveys</li> <li>• Drop in price of data transmission seems to bear out the trend, though</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
31:02	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Canadian DMCA about to fail <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="http://rss.slashdot.org/~r/slashdot/eqWf/~3/1F7GnGvCD1Q/article.pl">http://rss.slashdot.org/~r/slashdot/eqWf/~3/1F7GnGvCD1Q/article.pl</a></li> <li>• Would die if an election call goes forward</li> <li>• Means those backing the bill could lose power</li> <li>• Bill would die on the vine without backing</li> <li>• Similar thing happened with a previous attempt</li> <li>• If it dies, is likely to come back, again</li> <li>• Especially if the Conservatives regain power</li> <li>• There is a huge opportunity if it is re-introduced to find a better balance</li> <li>• Prentice tried to pull a fast one with this one, though</li> <li>• No guarantees of better involvement of public interest groups, transparent discussions</li> <li>• Geist thinks there is an opportunity to make this into a voting issue, too</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
33:07	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Outro</b></li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contact me <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Email to <a href="mailto:feedback@thecommandline.net">feedback@thecommandline.net</a></li> <li>• Web site at <a href="http://thecommandline.net/">http://thecommandline.net/</a></li> <li>• IM to <a href="mailto:command.line@skype">command.line@skype</a></li> </ul> </li> </ul>

## Offset

## Topic

- Listener comment line is 240-949-2638
- del.icio.us tag is "for:cmdln"
- <http://twitter.com/cmdln>
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